Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-120
Thursday
20 June 1996

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-96-120 *20 June 1996*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: MENA Gives Arab Summit Agenda, Lists Participants

NC1906185896 Cairo MENA in English 1747 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, June 19 (MENA)—The plenary Cairo Arab summit will start on Saturday [22 June] with most of the Arab heads of state, monarchs and princes attending to discuss the latest Arab and regional developments and to reach a unified Arab stand in this regard.

The agenda covers two main issues; namely, reuniting Arab ranks and enhancing the Mideast peace process, as peace is a strategic option for the Arab states.

The summit will commence at 11:00 hours (local time) [0800 GMT] at the Cairo International Conferences Centre, with an address by President Husni Mubarak welcoming the participants.

Contacts are underway to define the level of participation of Tunisia, Oman and Qatar.

MENA learned that the amir of Bahrain and the presidents of Djibouti and the Comoros will arrive here tomorrow, while the other leaders are due on Friday.

The foreign ministers of Mauritania, the Comoros and Djibouti are expected later today, while the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Morocco, Algeria, Bahrain, Palestine and Yemen are due here tomorrow.

MENA learned that the heads of state due to take part in the summit are Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Lebanese President Ilias al-Hirawi, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan.

The event will be attended also by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen, President Liamine Zeroual of Algeria, President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya of Mauritania, President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti, President 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan and President Mohamed Taqui Abdel-Kerim of the Comoros.

Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah are also to participate. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 11 Jun

NC1906073596

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 11 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRESS LAW 93 OF 1995 ESCALATES

This issue of AL-SHA'B, published before President Mubarak's recent decision — and the People's Assembly's consent — to repeal tough penalties contained in Press Law No. 93 of 1995, contains several articles and reports attacking the law as a violation of the freedom of the press and expression. For example:

—A 1,000-word report by Ashraf Khalil and Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 8 notes that the Press Association Council decided to resign "to protest government intransigence" concerning the press law. It also reports that journalists began a sit-in to protest government failure to cancel the law. It cites Journalists Doyen Ibrahim Nafi' as expressing disappointment that the Consultative Council passed "the infamous law" and ignored the journalists' "just" demands.

—The 1,500-word "text" of a statement issued by leaders of the opposition parties and political forces rejecting Press Law 93 of 1995 is published on pages 1 and 8. In the statement, leaders of the Labor Party, the Wafd Party, the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, the Liberal Party, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Communist Party stress the need for repealing the press law and all its consequences. Branding the law as "the Law on the Assassination of the Press and the Protection of Corruption," the leaders of the opposition parties demand a new press law "guaranteeing true press freedom." They announce support for every measure taken by the Press Association to confront the law and urge the People's Assembly to adopt an alternative press law drafted by the journalists.

—In a 4,000-word column on page 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn urges an immediate end to the government's "hysterical campaign" against the press,

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the judiciary, and the professional associations. He says the government "ignited civil war" against the nation's elite and intellectuals and maintains that the problem of Press Law 93 involves not only journalists, but the entire nation. He warns the government that the nation will never accept "bizarre" laws. "No one will respect them, and this will be the start of civil disobedience," he says. He points out that the campaign against the press is accompanied by attacks against parties, professional associations, and the judicial authority, and by the creation of an "illegitimate" legislative body. Husayn says restrictions on press freedom help corruption in the country to thrive. In this regard, he claims the interior minister is involved in corruption. He says: "We believe that his continuation in his post is the biggest blow to stability — the stability of the government and the regime, and the stability of all society." Husayn gives examples from several countries where senior officials or members of their families were tried on corruption charges, and he offers similar examples from the time of the early Islamic state. He then says: But here in Egypt the rulers stress that they are all angels. They give themselves and their children unconstitutional immunity. In this country, not only is Islamic shari'ah being violated, but so are the temporal laws. He concludes: "A regime doing this is definitely moving toward its death."

ARAB SUMMIT WELCOMED, SYRIAN PROPOSALS CITED

In an unattributed 600-word report on pages 1 and 6, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri is cited telling AL-SHA'B that his party welcomes the call for an Arab summit in Cairo. He urges the summit to adopt firm and tangible resolutions to strengthen Arab military and economic power. He expresses reservations about the failure to invite Iraq to the summit, saying Iraq's isolation weakens the Arab nation. Shukri also urges "national reconciliation" in Egypt by releasing political detainees, stopping military trials for Islamists, and ending the campaign against press freedom and against trade unions and opposition parties. This is necessary to confront foreign challenges, he says.

—Page 8 contains the following unattributed report under the headline Muslim Brotherhood Statement on the Arab Summit: "The Damascus summit statement in which an invitation to a full Arab summit was extended came at a time when the Arabs are extremely worried and annoyed that the Arab situation has declined to such a low level under various kinds of pressure and endeavors by the usurper Zionist enemy, which enjoys full U.S. backing, to expand its hegemony."

"If the call for a comprehensive Arab summit is meant to confront the current threats and dangers of the usurper Zionist entity, then the Muslim Brothers hope these efforts will succeed and mark the beginning of effective and decisive steps to entrench common Arab principles and links and to mobilize all resources and energies to uproot the aggression and prepare the Arabs to assume their civilized role. They beseech God Almighty to grant success to every step or action intended to serve this nation, consolidate its unity, achieve its might and pride, and guarantee its victory and strength."

—In a 1,000-word report about the Arab summit on pages 1 and 8, Mahmud Bakri says the Libyan and Syrian presidents will try to arrange a meeting between the Egyptian and Sudanese presidents before the summit to settle differences between Egypt and Sudan. He also says Syria prepared "working proposals" to be discussed at the Arab summit in Cairo. The reporter says the Syrian proposals ask for a unified Arab position if Israel fails to withdraw from the Golan. He claims the proposals do not rule out military action "if Israel escalates its positions against Syria." The proposals also urge Arab military and financial support for Syria and Lebanon "as a practical reaction to the U.S. program of supplying Israel with the most advanced weaponry."

BROTHERHOOD LEADER ON 'FAKE' PEACE, ARAB 'CRISIS'

In his 1,500-word column on page 5 Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Mustafa Mashhur tells Arabs and Muslims how to get out of their "crisis." He begins by saying that Israel and the United States deceived the Arabs with the so-called peace process to enable Israel to implement its schemes. He adds that the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, and other Arab countries fell into the trap of normalization with Israel. Then came Netanyahu's election as prime minister of Israel, adding to the Arabs' worry and embarrassment, he says. Mashhur asks: What is the way out of this stalemate? He answers: "First, the Arabs must break loose of the deception of the fake peace and confront this imminent and looming danger. They must not have good faith in either of the enemy's two parties. The Likud and the Labor Party are moving in the same direction and working to achieve the same objective, namely, a 'Greater Israel.' They are only distributing roles among themselves. They insist on keeping Jerusalem as their unified capital. They are determined not to let displaced Palestinians return and not to allow an independent Palestinian entity to emerge. And they want to impose economic, political, social, and even military hegemony over the region. They are working to achieve these objectives in stages. In this, they are being assisted by the United States and the

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West." He says the Arabs are facing "the most dangerous and most malicious enemy." He refers to Koranic descriptions of the Jews as rancorous, aggressive, and dishonest.

Mashhur then calls on Arabs and Muslims to end their differences and "fabricated" disputes and to unite against their common enemy. And to confront enemy attempts "to weaken Arabs and Muslims and alienate them from their Islamic identity," Mashhur urges Arab and Muslim governments to promote human virtues and solve social and economic problems by returning to religion and applying Islamic shari'ah. "If the Islamic punishment for theft, for example, is applied against a few thieves," he says, "all crimes of theft and looting will disappear."

Maintaining that Palestine is the issue of every Arab and Muslim, Mashhur says that all Arab and Muslim states must defend the Palestinian cause and object to UN and U.S. support for Israel. They must also stop any oppression of Islamists, revise educational curricula, unleash freedom, and fight corruption, he says. "It is also the duty of Arab and Muslim governments to promote the spirit of jihad and love for martyrdom among the youth," he says. He also urges Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to release detainees from the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, saying such a step "will raise the morale of the Palestinians so that everyone will be ready to carry out martyrdom-seeking operations." But Mashhur also urges Arab governments "to support Yasir 'Arafat, not to abandon him in these sensitive and hard circumstances."

REJECTION OF ISLAMIST AL-WASAT PARTY CONTESTED

Page 6 contains the 3,500-word "first part" of a report presented by lawyer Dr. Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa to the Higher Administrative Court in which he contests the Party Affairs Committee's decision not to grant a license to the al-Wasat Party, essentially founded by Muslim Brotherhood figures. Dr. al-'Awwa says the Party Affairs Committee's decision violates the law. He notes that the committee did not ask the party founders for any clarification, as the law stipulates. He refutes the committee's argument that al-Wasat came up with nothing new and that its program is similar to those of existing parties. He mentions passages from the party's program to prove his point and contends that the committee used texts from the party's program out of context.

ARAB SUPPORT FOR ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN TURKEY URGED

In a 1,000-word article on page 7, columnist Mahfuz 'Azzam praises the policies and statements of Turkish Refah Party leader Necmettin Erbakan and urges Arab and Muslim support for him. He refers to recent military agreements between Israel and Turkey and maintains that if Turkey was ruled by the Refah Party, the agreements would not be signed. The writer notes that Egyptian officials and media reacted coolly to Refah's winning the Turkish elections and ignored his statements regarding the need to liberate Palestine and forge alliances with Arab and Muslim states. He urges those officials and media to realize that "Egyptian and pan-Arab security is organically linked with the growth of the Islamic movement in Turkey, which is being led wisely, competently, and scientifically by Dr. Erbakan." He also urges Arab officials to realize that "restrictions on the Islamic movement in Egypt and the Arab world certainly disturb pan-Arab security as they see subservient regimes, agents of imperialism and world Zionism installed." He stresses that Islam is the only solution.

MINISTER ASSAILED FOR ENCOURAGING NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL

In a 1,000-word article on page 12, columnist al-Sayyid al- Ghadban attacks Dr. Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture and secretary general of the ruling National Democratic Party, for his policies, which reportedly encourage normalization with Israel and cooperation with it in the area of agriculture. He says people hated Wali but thought he was executing official policy. Although Egypt's official relations with Israel are now strained, the writer says, Wali continues "to welcome his Israeli friends under the pretext of benefiting from Israel's distinguished expertise in agriculture." He says Wali is enabling the Israelis to establish "Israeli settlements" in Egypt under the name of experimental farms. Maintaining that this poses a threat to Egypt's national security, the writer says Wali has no place in official or public Egypt.

WRITER URGES RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

In a 800-word article on page 5, Labor Party deputy leader Muhammad Hilmi Murad discusses the recent arrest and trial of some Egyptians for links with the Israeli Mosad and urges the government to impose restrictions on Egyptians' travel to Israel. Noting that the Israeli authorities are encouraging Egyptians to visit and work in Israel, he says Israel tries to recruit "weak-willed" workers to spy on the country. He also argues that Israel is using Egyptian workers to serve its economy and to tighten the noose around Palestinian labor. This would cause friction between Egyptians and Palestinians, he says, adding that the presence of numerous Egyptian workers in Israel may also be used

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as a political card in the hand of the Israeli Government to pressure Egypt.

WRITER URGES ISLAMIC UNITED NATIONS

In a 500-word column on page 6, columnist Ahmad al-Syufi determines that the United Nations essentially seeks to serve an Israeli-Western project, and urges Muslims to leave the organization. He notes that over 1 billion Muslims worldwide have no single permanent seat in the Security Council. He says that while no single UN resolution against Israel was implemented, all UN resolutions against Muslims in Iraq, Libya, Somalia, and Bosnia were implemented in full. "The United Nations is an establishment that serves the Zionist project and the Christian project. It must be demolished over the heads of its owners, the suckers of the blood of the oppressed peoples. We have no solution other than establishing an Islamic United Nations. Let us start now; we cannot waste time."

EGYPTIAN REPORT NOTES FOOD, MEDICINE SHORTAGES IN IRAQ

A 1,000-word report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Mun'im on page 4 cites a report by a delegation from the Egyptian Industries Confederation that recently visited Iraq as saying that living conditions in Iraq are worsening daily as a result of the UN-imposed sanctions against it. The report says hundreds of factories stopped operation, businesses went bankrupt, and hospitals are now facing an acute shortage of basic medical supplies. The report notes a rising mortality rate among Iraqi children and an unprecedented decrease in the value of the Iraqi dinar. The report says hospitals in Iraq lack oxygen, antibiotics, and anesthetic material, and there is a pressing need for essential food supplies. The report proposes a donation campaign for Iraq and urges international organizations to help the Iraqi people.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Calls For Resumption of 'Jihad' Against Israel

NC1906195196 Paris AFP in English 1925 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, June 19 (AFP) — The Palestinian militant group Hamas called Wednesday [19 June] for Arab countries to help it restart the Jihad, or holy war, against Israel after the formation of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's rightwing government.

"It is time to close ranks and reactivate the Jihad against Zionist occupation with the arrival of Netanyahu," said Ibrahim Ghawshah, the spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

"Arab and Islamic forces must give a free hand to the resistance as has the new Israeli government with rightwing religious and racist groups," Ghawshah said in a statement distributed in Damascus.

"Hamas is prepared to cooperate and coordinate its action with all Arab and Islamic countries to confront the threats by Netanyahu's government, on the condition that the states lift their restrictions imposed by the United States on us moving in more than one place," he added.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for most of the deadly suicide bombings in Israel and opposes the Palestinian autonomy accords signed with the Jewish state.

The group expressed its willingness to "reopen talks with the Palestinian Authority" as soon as it "frees a thousand (Hamas) prisoners and ends the oppression of its members."

Netanyahu, whose government was sworn in Wednesday, opposes the creation of a Palestinian state or turning over any land to Israel's Arab neighbors.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Tells New Government Terms for Ending Attacks

TA2006102196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip today, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] says it would be willing to stop terrorist attacks against Israel if Netanyahu's government stops fighting against the organization. The leaflet, signed by the Hamas military arm 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, mentions two more demands: releasing all of the Palestinian prisoners and lifting the closure at once.

Palestinian Affairs: Minister Says Netanyahu Statement Evokes War

JN1906165296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Report by Nasir Abu-Bakr in Janin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister 'Azzam al-Ahmad said that new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu failed to mention the name of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority, in his speech. He added that while Netanyahu addressed the issue of peace with the Arab states in general terms, he failed to address the basic element of the peace process: the Palestinian side. He failed to address Yasir 'Arafat, who is the president of the State of Palestine, whether Netanyahu likes it or not.

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Minister 'Azzam al-Ahmad continued: We were not surprised by the statement Netanyahu delivered to the Knesset yesterday. His talk of peace is only word play. It is a continuation of the course pursued by previous Israeli governments. It is a continuation of the same old Israeli approach. In addition, when he spoke about the Golan, he did not invoke connotations of peace.

Al-Ahmad stressed that the Palestinian side is fully committed to all the agreements it has entered into. He added: We have honored all our commitments. As for the Israelis, they must honor their commitments. Al-Ahmad urged Netanyahu to honor the agreements signed by the former Israeli Government. He indicated that all the parties to the peace process, as well as its cosponsors, have said the Palestinian side has honored all its commitments, the most recent of which was the Palestine National Council's amendment of some provisions of the Palestinian National Charter.

Al-Ahmad added: In his speech, Netanyahu attempted to wriggle out of the commitments the former Israeli Government made to the National Authority, even though he said that Israel will continue the negotiations. No matter which party rules in Israel, we will negotiate with the Israeli Government, but on clear bases and in accordance with the signed agreements. Under no circumstances will we agree to reconsider any provision of the Oslo accords, whether it concerns the interim period or the final status. When he speaks about security, Netanyahu should not only have Israel's security in mind. He must also think of security for the Palestinians and other Arabs.

Al-Ahmad pointed out that Netanyahu's discourse is one of war, rather than peace. Consequently, we must be cautious, close our ranks, improve our performance within the National Authority, and promote Arab solidarity. Al-Ahmad said he hopes the upcoming Arab summit will usher in a new era of enhanced Arab solidarity so that we may confront the imminent dangers Netanyahu unfolded yesterday. He added that the ongoing meetings of the National Authority's Council of Ministers and the PLO Executive Committee addressed the issue of Israeli elections. He said: The participants emphasized the importance of improving the performance of the National Authority and the PLO and their institutions and the performance all Palestinian political factions, regardless of whether they are part of the National Authority. Al-Ahmad urged all parties to be aware of the dangers posed by the coming phase. He also called for a closure of ranks and for concerted efforts to resolve the Palestine question.

Palestinian Affairs: Legislative Council Speaker on Incidents in Hebron

NC1906190896 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, in Jerusalem by Antoine 'Awn in London—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Awn] When Netanyahu was elected, the Hebron settlers provoked the Palestinian citizens. When he took power, the provocation came from the Israeli troops, just as we saw today. Do you believe that a new chapter of confrontation has begun?

[Quray'] I have to say the policy the new government has announced sums up the hardline stances of the parties composing it. What was announced and done by the Hebron settlers and what happened today is certainly not a reassuring sign. This undoubtedly requires a firm Palestinian position. This is what we are trying to do. It also requires a clear Arab position, which we hope the Arab summit will adopt.

['Awn] You were one of the architects of the Oslo agreement. This agreement is in danger today just because there is a new Israeli prime minister. Do you think that the absence of terms of reference that bind the two sides has endangered that agreement?

[Quray'] This is not a Palestinian-Israeli agreement; it is an international agreement signed in Washington in the presence of many states that influence the overall policy. There were Arab witnesses, the sponsors of the peace process, the European Union, Japan, Canada, and others. Hence, I do not believe it will be easy for the new Israel government to evade or get rid of this agreement. But, it is required to show commitment to implementing it.

['Awn] Do you have any guarantees?

[Quray'] The guarantees are the peace we will enjoy, the signing of the agreement, and what has actually been achieved so far. These are the guarantees.

['Awn] A last question if you please: Netanyahu's refusal to meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat so far has practically brought the lack of confidence back to square one. Do you think we are back at the stage that preceded mutual recognition?

[Quray'] I do not want to defy anyone. But I say that the new Israeli prime minister cannot avoid a meeting with the Palestinian president if he wants peace to continue or if he wants Israel to live in peace and safety in the region. The Palestinian issue is the issue of all Arabs.

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He understands the meaning of the Arab summit and the meaning of peace with the Palestinians.

['Awn] Thank you.

Palestinian Affairs: Draft of 'Temporary' Palestinian Constitution

TA1906064896 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic 16 Jun 96 pp 16, 17

[Draft "temporary constitution of the Palestinian National Authority in the transitional stage"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chapter 1 — Basic Laws

Article 1 — The Palestinian people are the source of powers. They shall exercise those powers through the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities as spelled out in this Constitution.

Article 2 — The Palestinian people are part of the Arab nation, and Palestine is part of the great Arab homeland.

Article 3 — Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine.

Article 4 — Islam is the official religion of Palestine, and Arabic its official language.

Article 5 — The government system in Palestine is democratic and parliamentary, based on political and party pluralism and the majority's respect for the minority's rights and interests as well as the minority's respect for the majority's decision.

Article 6 — The principle of the law's sovereignty is the basis of rule in Palestine, and all authorities, agencies, bodies, institutions, and individuals are subject to the law.

Article 7 — Palestinians are equal before the law, without discrimination of rights and duties on account of origin, language, religion, sex, or disability.

Article 8 — Sovereignty in Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people alone who will practice and protect this sovereignty, safeguard national unity, prevent exploitation, reduce the income gap, and ensure justice and equality.

Article 9 — A) Palestinians are Arab residents who as a rule lived in Palestine until 1947, and anyone born to an Arab Palestinian father after this date is Palestinian.

B) Palestinian nationality is regulated by the law.

Article 10 — The flag of Palestine will be in the following colors and measurements: Its length is double its width, and it is divided horizontally into three equal and parallel parts, the top one is black, the middle white, and the bottom green. It shall carry on the mast side a red right-angled triangle whose base is equal to the width of the flag, and its height is half the length of the flag.

Chapter 2 — Basic Rights, Freedoms, and Duties

Article 11 — Palestine recognizes the basic human rights and freedoms stipulated in international declarations, charters, and agreements. The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] will seek to join these international charters and agreements.

Article 12 — Personal freedom is a natural right that is guaranteed and cannot be harmed. Other than in criminal cases, it is not permissible to detain, search, or arrest anyone, restrict his freedom, or prevent his movement except through an order necessitated by interrogation and the protection of the security of Palestinian society. This order must be issued by a special judge or the prosecutor general's office in accordance with the law's provisions. The period of preventive custody is determined by the law's provisions.

It is not permissible to arrest or detain anyone in places not subject to the laws issued by the prison administration.

Article 13 — Everyone is equally entitled to human dignity. It is not permissible to subject anyone to torture, nor to inhuman or humiliating treatment. All those deprived of their freedom will be treated in a humane manner and their dignity respected. No statement or admission resulting from torture, or inhuman or humiliating treatment, or threats thereof, shall be used as evidence.

Article 14 — Anyone taken in custody or arrested should be informed of the reasons for his detention or arrest. He should be informed quickly, in detail, and in a comprehensible language, of the nature and reasons for the charges against him. He should be given sufficient time and facilities to contact an attorney chosen by him personally, and he must be brought to trial without delay.

Article 15 — Punishment is meted out on an individual basis, and collective punishment is forbidden. There is no crime or punishment except in accordance with the text.

Article 16 — A suspect is innocent until he is convicted in a legal trial in which he is guaranteed self-defense. Any criminal suspect must have a defense attorney.

Article 17 — It is not permissible to conduct medical or scientific experiments on anyone without his approval and through observance of the law's regulations.

Article 18 — Residences are inviolable. It is forbidden to stake out, enter, or search residences without a

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justifiable legal order in accordance with the law's regulations.

Article 19 — Private property is protected. It cannot be expropriated except for public interest and in return for just compensation in accordance with the law.

Article 20 — Private lives of citizens are inviolable and protected by the law. Mail and telegram correspondence, telephone conversations, and other forms of communication are inviolable, and their secrecy is guaranteed. It is forbidden to confiscate, study, or observe them except by a justifiable legal order and for a limited period of time in accordance with the law's provisions.

Article 21 — Freedom of faith and practice of religious rites are guaranteed in accordance with the observed customs, provided that they do not disturb public order or decency.

Article 22 — Every person is entitled to freedom of thought and conscience and freedom to express his opinion and distribute it orally or in writing, through any form of art, or in any form of expression without prejudicing the restrictions the law imposes for respecting the rights and reputations of others, or for the protection of national security, public order, public health, or decency.

Article 23 — Taking the above-mentioned article into account, freedom of the press, printing, publishing, and mass media is guaranteed. Censorship of newspapers, or warning, suspending, or closing them down by administrative means is prohibited.

Article 24 — Freedom of residence and movement is guaranteed within the bounds of the law.

Article 25 — Freedom of economic activity is guaranteed. The law shall determine the principles for regulating it and its limitations.

Article 26 — Freedom to form political parties is guaranteed provided that their goals or activities do not contravene this Constitution. The parties should practice their activities by peaceful means. The law shall regulate the special guidelines pertaining to the formation of political parties.

Article 27 — A) Education is the right of every citizen. It is free and compulsory until the 10th grade in public educational institutions. The Palestinian national authorities shall strive to provide it at all stages.

B) The PNA shall supervise and guarantee education in its entirety. Universities and scientific research centers shall have their independence and sanctity as specified by the law and in a way that guarantees freedom of scientific research and literary, artistic, and cultural creativity.

C) By observing the law, religious and other minorities, as well as those fulfilling the conditions, have the right to establish private schools and educational institutions.

Article 28 — Work is a right, duty, and honor. The PNA shall endeavor to provide equal opportunities for citizens to enable them to practice this right within the framework of laws that realize social justice for them. It is not permissible to force anyone to engage in any labor or compulsory work with the exception of the following cases:

A) Any national service imposed by the law.
B) Any service imposed by emergency situations or catastrophes that threaten the life of the community or its welfare.
C) Any work or services that form part of regular national and civilian obligations.

Article 29 — The law shall regulate the conditions concerning social insurance.

Article 30 — Every citizen has the right to a house. The PNA shall provide housing to those lacking shelter.

Article 31 — The right of peaceful gatherings is recognized. It is not permissible to place restrictions on the exercise of this right other than those imposed by the law and those that constitute necessary measures in a democratic society to protect national security; public safety, order, and health; decency; or the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 32 — A) Every citizen has the right to establish associations with others, including the right to establish unions and join them to protect his interests.

B) It is forbidden to impose restrictions on practicing this right except where it is specified by law and where it constitutes necessary measures in a democratic society to protect national security; public safety, order, and health; decency; or the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 33 — Palestinians have the right to address the public authorities in writing with their signatures. They cannot address the authorities in the name of groups except when they address military organizations.

Article 34 — It is forbidden to deport any Palestinian from the homeland's soil, strip him of his citizenship, prevent him from departing or returning to the homeland, or hand him over to any foreign party.

Article 35 — It is forbidden to extradite those to whom the PNA has granted political asylum in accordance with the regulations of international law.

Article 36 — Jerusalem is a holy city to the three divine religions. Out of loyalty to their spiritual heritage,

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the Palestinian authorities should provide conditions for tolerant coexistence among the religions in Jerusalem and elsewhere in Palestine.

Article 37 — Freedom of access and visits to holy places and religious sites is guaranteed to all citizens and foreigners without discrimination, provided public security and order and decency are maintained.

Article 38 — Resorting to legal action is a right guaranteed to everyone. Every person whose basic rights or liberties have been infringed upon shall have the right to resort to the law for lifting the infringement and seeking compensation, if necessary.

Article 39 — By taking this Constitution into account, an independent human rights body having a legal character shall be established by law. It shall follow up on the implementation of the special human rights regulations in Palestine. The law will determine its formation, tasks, and responsibilities.

Article 40 — A balanced and clean environment is a human right. The preservation and protection of the Palestinian environment from pollution for the sake of present and future generations is a national responsibility.

Chapter 3 — The Legislative Authority, the Council

Article 41 — The elected Palestinian Legislative Council [LC] shall exercise legislative powers during the transitional stage as specified in this constitution. The term of the LC shall be as long as the transitional stage.

Article 42 — The LC shall be comprised of 88 elected members in accordance with the Palestinian election law.

Article 43 — The PNA president shall inaugurate the ordinary LC session and deliver the government statement.

Article 44 — A) The LC's annual ordinary session will be in two sittings for four months each. The first shall begin in the first week of February, and the second in the first week of September.

B) The LC may extend the ordinary session for a period that it deems necessary to complete its work. Under no circumstances can the session be adjourned before the budget is approved.

Article 45 — The LC shall convene its extraordinary session in response to a call by its speaker, upon a request by the council of ministers, or by a quarter of the Council's members to consider the issues specified in the invitation. If the Council speaker does not call such a meeting, the meeting shall be considered in session by on the date and at the venue set in the request of its members or that of the council of ministers.

Article 46 — At its first sitting, the Council shall elect a speaker, two deputy speakers, and a secretary who will make up the speaker's bureau. It is forbidden for the speaker to also be head of the executive authority or a member of the council of ministers. The term of the speakers' bureau shall be as long as that of the Council, unless the Council's internal bylaws stipulate otherwise.

Article 47 — Before starting his term, every Council member shall take the following oath:

I swear to the Almighty to be faithful to the homeland, safeguard the rights and interests of the people and nation, respect the constitution, and perform my duties to the best of my ability, as God is my witness.

Article 48 — The presence of more than half the Council's members is necessary for a legal meeting of the Council. Decisions shall be adopted by an absolute majority of the members present, except in cases where a special majority is required. If it becomes clear that a quorum is lacking at the time set for a meeting, the speaker shall postpone the meeting by half an hour. If after this time a quorum is still not reached, the speaker shall postpone the meeting to another date not exceeding a week from the specified date.

Article 49 — A) The Council's meetings shall be open, but the Council can be called to a secret meeting in special cases upon a request by the National Authority president, the Council speaker, or a third of the Council members. The Council shall decide whether discussion of the issue raised before it will be conducted in an open or secret meeting. This decision shall be made following a debate with the participation of two members advocating a secret meeting and two members opposed to it.

B) If the reasons for a secret meeting no longer exist, the Council speaker shall ask that the Council end the meeting. Thereupon, the meeting shall again become open.

Article 50 — The Council members have the right to propose laws and query the government or one of the ministers in accordance with the Council's internal bylaws.

Article 51 — A) It is not permissible for members of penal or civilian institutions to interrogate the Council because of the events that they recount, the opinions that they express, the way they vote in meetings and in committees, or any activity they engage in outside the Council that enables them to perform their duties as members of the Council.

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B) The Council members shall enjoy immunity throughout the Council's term. It is not permitted to take any penal measures against any member except in cases where he is caught red handed.

Article 52 — A) No Council member may give up his immunity without the Council's permission.

B) A member's immunity from all his actions and statements during his membership in the Council shall continue after his membership in the Council ends.

Article 53 — A) No Council member may be called to testify about a matter relating to his actions, or statements, or information that he obtained during or after his membership as a Council member.

B) A Council member cannot be summoned to court whether as a plaintiff, defendant, or witness when the Council is in session.

Article 54 — Under no circumstances may a Council member be harassed. It is not permissible to search his belongings, home, car, or office throughout his immunity.

Article 55 — A) A Council member is not permitted to abuse his membership in any other job.

B) Membership in the Council may not be combined with any other job or work. The law shall specify the jobs that may be combined with membership in the Council.

Article 56 — The LC shall perform its duties as a legislative authority by:

A) The introduction and approval of laws.
B) Supervising and questioning the executive authority and its institutions, departments, and agencies.
C) Ratifying the general budget and development programs.
D) Approving general amnesty.
E) Giving a vote of confidence or no-confidence to the government or to one of the ministers as specified in this constitution.

Article 57 — A) The Council shall set up from among its members the permanent committees that are in the sphere of its responsibilities.

B) The Council shall set up temporary fact-finding committees to collect information about issues relating to the exercise of those responsibilities.

Article 58 — The LC shall approve the general development plan. The law shall specify the method by which the plan is prepared and presented to the Council.

Article 59 — The law shall regulate the special provisions relating to the preparation and ratification of the general budget, the supplementary and development budgets, the budgets of public institutions and organizations, and every project in which the state invests 50 percent or more of that project's capital, as well as the administration of the funds appropriated to them.

Article 60 — A) By observing the provisions of Article 102 of this constitution, the government must present the draft budget to the Council at least four months before the start of the fiscal year.

B) The Council shall hold a special meeting to discuss the budget plan. The Council shall either ratify or return it to the government no later than two months from its presentation with the Council's observations so that it may undergo the necessary modifications and be returned to the Council for approval.

C) The Council shall vote on the budget item by item.

D) It is not permitted to change one item of the budget with another except in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 61 — The final version of the state budget must be presented to the LC within a year of the end of the fiscal year. It shall be voted on item by item and be issued as a law.

Article 62 — If one or more Council seats are vacated through death, resignation, or loss of legal qualifications, by-elections shall be held in the relevant constituency, in accordance with the Palestinian election law, to elect a successor.

Article 63 — Every LC member must submit a financial statement to the Council speaker on himself, his wife or wives if he has more than one, and his under age children, detailing the properties, companies, and cash money that they possess. The speaker shall make the necessary arrangements to preserve the secrecy of the financial statement.

Article 64 — The Council shall draw up its internal bylaws to regulate the method of its work and the manner in which it performs its tasks.

Chapter 4 — The Executive Authority

First: The President

Article 65 — The executive authority during the transitional stage shall be assumed by the president and the council of ministers as specified by this constitution and these laws.

Article 66 — The president shall be elected through direct general elections in accordance with the provisions of the Palestinian election law.

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Article 67 — Prior to assuming office, the president shall take the following oath before the chief justice:

I swear by Almighty God to be faithful to the homeland, its sanctity, and its national heritage; to respect the constitution and the law; and to fully uphold the Palestinian people's interests, as God is my witness.

Article 68 — The term of the presidency shall be five years. The president is not entitled to serve more than two consecutive terms. The first term of the first president or his successor during the transitional stage shall end upon the conclusion of this stage.

Article 69 — 1. The president's post shall be considered vacant in any of the following cases:

A) Death.
B) Resignation.
C) Loss of legal qualification.
2. The president shall be considered to have lost his legal qualification if a special Palestinian court issues a legal verdict and the LC ratifies it by a two-thirds majority.

3. If the post of president becomes vacant in any of the cases mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article, the LC speaker shall assume the PNA presidency temporarily for a period not exceeding 60 days, during which elections to choose a new president shall be held in accordance with the Palestinian election law.

Article 70 — The president is the supreme commander of the Palestinian forces.

Article 71 — The president shall receive the credentials of the envoys of Arab and foreign countries and institutions in Palestine.

Article 72 — A) The president shall issue laws following their approval by the LC. He shall ratify these laws within 30 days of them being presented to him.

B) If the president objects to or refuses to issue a draft law approved and submitted to him by the LC, the president must return it to the Council within the period mentioned in paragraph A. If this law is not returned within this period, it shall be considered ratified. If it is returned before this date and is approved by the Council once again by a two-thirds majority, it shall be considered ratified.

Article 73 — The president and the council of ministers have the right to propose laws, issue decrees, and adopt decisions and measures that are necessary for the implementation of laws.

Article 74 — The president has the right to grant special pardons and reduce sentences. General amnesty shall be only by law.

Article 75 — A) The president shall exercise his powers, stipulated in this constitution, through decisions and decrees issued by him in accordance with the law.

B) If necessary and in extraordinary cases and based on a mandate from the LC through a two-thirds majority, the president shall issue decisions having the power of law. The mandate must be for a limited period and should clarify the issues of these decisions and the foundations on which they are based. These decisions must be presented to the LC at its first meeting following the end of the mandate period. If they are not presented, or if they are presented and the Council rejects them, the power of law of these decisions will have been terminated.

Article 76 — A) The president shall appoint a deputy and present him to the LC for approval.

B) The president may delegate some of his powers to any of his aides, as he deems fit.

Article 77 — The president's allowance and compensation shall be determined by the law.

Second: The Council of Ministers

Article 78 — A) The president shall appoint the prime minister and ministers, dismiss them, and accept their resignations. He shall preside over the meetings of the council of ministers.

B) The powers of the prime minister shall be determined by law.

Article 79 — The council of ministers shall help the president in performing his duties and exercising his powers as specified in this constitution.

Article 80 — A) After the PNA president chooses the members of the council of ministers, they will be presented together to the LC to receive a vote of confidence after the LC hears the government statement determining the government's program and policy.

B) If the Council gives a vote of no-confidence by an absolute majority to the members of the council of ministers, or to one or more member, the PNA president shall present a replacement in the following meeting provided that it is held no later than two weeks from the first meeting.

C) If there is a cabinet reshuffle, or one of the ministers resigns or dies, the new ministers shall be presented to the Council at its first meeting for a vote of confidence.

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Article 81 — Each member of the council of ministers must be an elected member of the LC. The president, however, has the right to appoint ministers who are not LC members provided that they do not make up more than 20 percent of the members of the council of ministers. They can participate in the LC meetings without having the right to vote.

Article 82 — In general, the council of ministers shall assume the responsibility of governing and running the country's affairs.

Article 83 — A) The council of ministers shall be comprised of a prime minister and a number of ministers in accordance with the requirements of the public. The appointment decree shall specify the ministry for which each minister will be responsible.

B) One minister may be appointed to one or more ministries in accordance with the appointment decree.

Article 84 — A) Prior to assuming their duties, the prime minister and the ministers shall take the oath stipulated in article 64 of this constitution before the president.

B) The prime minister and each minister shall submit to the PNA president a financial disclosure statement about himself, his wife or wives if he has more than one, and his underage children, detailing the properties, companies, and funds which they own. The president shall make the necessary arrangements to preserve the secrecy of those statements.

Article 85 — It is not permissible for the prime minister or any minister to buy or rent any government property even if it is offered in public sale, or that they have a financial interest in any contract signed by governmental quarters. Moreover, during their ministerial term they cannot be members of the board of directors of any company, nor engage in trade, or practice any profession, or receive a salary or any other rewards from any company or any other source.

Article 86 — The prime minister and ministers are responsible to the president and the LC for the country's general policy within bounds of their responsibilities. Every minister is also responsible to them for the work of his ministry.

Article 87 — A) The prime minister shall ask the LC for a vote of confidence in the government. Moreover, 10 Council members can call for a vote of confidence in the government or in any minister. A vote of no-confidence shall be with an absolute majority. If the government loses a vote of confidence, the prime minister must submit the government's resignation to the president. Furthermore, a minister who loses a vote of confidence must submit his resignation.

B) The provisions of paragraph A apply to the provisions of paragraph B of Article 80.

Article 88 — The responsibilities of the ministries shall be determined by the regulations put forward by the council of ministers and ratified by the PNA president.

Article 89 — Taking into consideration Article 82 of this constitution, the council of ministers shall be responsible for the following:

A) Formulating general policies within bounds of the responsibilities of which it is in charge and in light of what its members propose in accordance with the government program ratified by the LC.

B) Implementing the general policies set by the special Palestinian quarters.

C) Drawing up and approving the general budget in order to be submitted to the LC.

D) Supervising the administrative apparatus.

E) Following up on the implementation of laws and ensuring that they are adhered to.

F) Following up on the performance of ministries and other units of the administrative apparatus with regard to their obligations, responsibilities, and coordination among them.

G) Discussing the proposals of various ministries and their policies within context of fulfilling their responsibilities.

H) Any other responsibilities stipulated by this constitution, or any other law approved by the council of ministers.

Article 90 — Each minister shall exercise the following powers and authorities within the framework of his ministry:

A) Proposing the general policy of his ministry and supervising its implementation upon its approval.
B) Supervising the work of his ministry and issuing the necessary instructions.
C) Implementing the general budget within framework of the approved allocations for his ministry.
D) Proposing the laws pertaining to his ministry.
E) Delegating some of his powers to the ministry's undersecretary, or to the heads of sections, or to senior officials of the ministry, as necessary.
F) Any other powers or authorities delegated to him by laws, regulations, bylaws, and decisions issued in accordance with the law.

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Article 91 — Each minister shall submit to the council of ministers detailed reports about his ministry's activities, policies, plans, and achievements in comparison with the goals determined for the ministry within framework of the general plan. The minister shall also submit his ministry's proposals and recommendations on its future policy.

These reports shall be submitted regularly and in an organized manner every three months, whereby the council of ministers shall be sufficiently acquainted with the activities and policies of each ministry.

Article 92 — The appointment of civil servants and the conditions of their employment shall be in accordance with the laws in effect.

Third: The Security Forces and the Police

Article 93 — A) The security forces and police are a military force established to serve the people, protect society, preserve security, public order, and decency. They shall carry out their duty in accordance with the limitations specified by the law, and they shall fully respect rights and freedoms without exception or discrimination.

B) The security and police forces shall be organized by the law.

Fourth: Councils and Public Institutions

Article 94 — Specialized councils and public institutions shall be established by decisions issued by the president in order to assist the council of ministers in drawing its general policy in the spheres of public activity. It is permissible for these councils and institutions to be independent bodies with the status of a legal body that carries out specified activities entrusted to it in the establishing decisions. In this case, it shall be established by law.

Fifth: The Local Administration

Article 95 — The state shall be divided by law into administrative units having the status of a legal body. Each unit shall have a council directly elected in accordance with the law.

The law shall determine the responsibilities of the local administrative units, their financial resources, their relations with the central authority, and their role in preparing and implementing development plans. Moreover, the law shall determine the best form of control over these units and their various activities.

The division shall be made, as much as possible, in accordance with the number of residents, their interests, and concentrations.

Sixth: The Public Administration

Article 96 — It is not permissible for any unit of the administrative apparatus or any of its officials to sign a financial commitment or adhere to one except within bounds of the powers stipulated by law. Any action that contradicts this provision is null and void.

Article 97 — It is not permissible for any unit of the administrative apparatus or any of its officials to issue regulations, decisions, and instructions that contravene the applied legislation, or to abide by any decisions, instructions, or regulations that are issued in contravention of such legislation.

Article 98 — Every unit of the administrative apparatus shall fulfill its responsibilities, carry out its duties, and issue the regulations, decisions, or instructions needed for this purpose within its legally defined jurisdiction.

Article 99 — Appointments to public positions, councils, and specialized institutions shall be determined by qualification, experience, and the ability to function with the requirements of the nature of the position, its responsibilities, and the goals of the council or institution.

Seventh: Finance

Article 100 — The imposition, amendment, and cancellation of general taxation and fees shall be conducted only by law. No one exempt from it fully or partially except when specified by law.

Article 101 — The law shall clarify the special provisions related to the collection of state money and its spending procedures.

Article 102 — The beginning of the fiscal year shall be determined by law. If it has not been possible to ratify the general budget prior to the commencement of the new fiscal year, expenditure shall continue through monthly supplementary loans of a ratio of 1:12 for every month of the previous year's budget.

Article 103 — All funds collected from taxes or other income shall be deposited in the general treasury and shall be included in the budget. No treasury funds shall be appropriated or spent for any purpose whatsoever except in accordance with the law.

Article 104 — A comptroller's office shall be established by law. The independence of this office shall also be guaranteed by law. The office shall conduct administrative and financial supervision of the executive authority and its institutions, including supervision over the collection and expenditure of public funds allocated in the budget. The office shall submit to the PNA president and the LC an annual report about its activities as well as its observations. It shall innumerate the administrative and financial irregularities — if they exist — and name those responsible for them.

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Article 105 — General loans shall be distributed by law. It is permissible to give a loan or guarantee a loan by law, or within the limits of the appropriated sums for this purpose in the budget.

Article 106 — The law shall regulate the special provisions concerning banks, insurance companies, and financial institutions.

Article 107 — The law shall determine the special provisions and measures for granting concessions related to the exploitation of natural resources and public utilities. Moreover, the law shall clarify the special regulations and measures for administering state land.

Article 108 — The law shall define the provisions for granting salaries, pensions, compensations, contributions, and rewards determined by the state treasury. The law shall also regulate cases of exemptions from the above and the parties in charge of implementing these provisions.

Chapter 5 — The Judicial Authority

1. The Judges

Article 109 — The judicial authority is independent. It is responsible for the different kinds and classes of courts, which shall issue their verdicts according to the law.

Article 110 — Judges are independent. The only authority above them is the law. No authority may interfere in a judicial ruling or affairs.

Article 111 — A) The law shall determine the judicial bodies, the manner of their formation, and their responsibilities.

B) The appointment of judges, their transfer, assignment, promotion, and questioning shall be in the manner and conditions defined by the law.

Article 112 — A Higher Judiciary Council shall be established by law. It shall be headed by the supreme judge. The law shall spell out the terms under which the council is formed, its responsibilities, and work procedures. The council's opinion shall be taken into consideration in the drafting of laws which regulate the affairs of the judicial authority, including the prosecutor general's office.

Article 113 — The following courts shall be established by law:

A) The Higher Constitutional Court, which will have exclusive supervision over the constitutionality of laws and regulations. The court shall also be responsible for interpreting the legislative texts, as defined by law.

B) The law shall determine the other kinds and classes of courts, the terms under which they are formed, their responsibilities, and the procedures of litigation before them.

Article 114 — The courts' sessions are open, unless the court deems it necessary to hold a closed door trial for the sake of public order or decency. In all cases, the reading of the verdict shall take place in an open session of the court.

Article 115 — The courts' verdicts shall be issued in accordance with the law and the principles of justice and shall be announced in the name of the Palestinian people.

2. The Prosecutor General's Office

Article 117 [figure as published] — The prosecutor general shall conduct general legal action in the name of the people.

Article 118 — A) The appointment of the prosecutor general and members of the prosecutor general's office, their transfer, and dismissal shall take place in the manner and conditions defined by the law.

B) The law shall spell out the terms under which the prosecutor general's office is formed and determine its responsibilities.

Chapter 6 — State of Emergency and Suspension of Basic Rights and Freedoms

Article 118 [figure as published] — A state of emergency shall be announced by a decree of the council of ministers. The LC shall endorse and renew such a decree only if there is a threat to national security because of war, invasion, general rebellion, or a national disaster.

Article 119 — The state of emergency decree must clearly stipulate its purpose, the area covered by it, and its duration, which may not exceed 30 days. The decree's validity shall end five days after being issued unless it is endorsed during this time by at least three-fourth of the LC members.

Article 120 — The state of emergency decree may be extended only for a period not to exceed 30 days if the extension is approved by three-fourth of the LC members.

Article 121 — 1. If the LC speaker finds out that the Council lacks the regular quorum necessary to examine the state of emergency decree, the state of emergency period may go into effect for not more than 30 days. The LC speaker will confirm that the LC cannot convene only after making all reasonable attempts to hold a Council meeting.

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2. The above-mentioned is not considered a reduction of the Council's authority to ratify, extend, or abolish any decree issued by the council of ministers relating to the state of emergency as soon as the Council is able to do so.

Article 122 — No action taken as a result of the state of emergency may allow or give the authority to suspend this chapter, nor impose additional restrictions on basic rights and freedoms stipulated in Articles 7, 14, 34, and 22 of this constitution.

Article 123 — Restrictions on basic rights and freedoms not mentioned in the last article may be imposed only if it is necessary to realize the announced goal of the decree and to restore security and order.

Article 124 — Any arrest stemming from the state of emergency shall be subject to the following conditions:

A) Any arrest shall be looked into by a court or a public prosecutor as soon as possible and within a period not to exceed 15 days from the day of detention.

B) The detainee has the right to employ an attorney of his choice.

Article 125 — The LC may not be dissolved during the state of emergency.

Article 126 — All previous decrees and laws relating to the state of emergency shall be considered null and void, including the Mandate (emergency) defense regulations of 1945.

Chapter 7 — General and Transitional Decrees

Article 127 — This constitution shall be implemented during the transitional stage, provided that it does not undermine the responsibilities and authorities of the PLO and its institutions, including its representation of the Palestinian people in international and foreign relations with foreign governments and international organizations.

Article 128 — Laws shall be issued in the name of the Palestinian people and shall be published in the Official Gazette after being signed and issued by the president. The laws shall go into effect 30 days after publication unless the law stipulates otherwise.

Article 129 — The provisions of the law and legislative resolutions are not enforceable except after they come into effect. It is permissible, when necessary and in non-criminal matters to specify otherwise in the laws.

Article 130 — Except during the state of emergency stipulated in Chapter 6, it is not permissible to suspend any basic right and freedom protected by this constitution. These rights and freedoms shall remain subject to the conditions of this constitution and to the laws that will be legislated for its implementation.

Article 131 — Laws, decrees, regulations, and decisions valid in Palestine prior to the enactment of this constitution shall remain in force as long as they do not contravene its provisions and until they are amended or abolished by the provisions of this constitution.

Article 132 — This temporary constitution may not be amended except by a two-third majority of LC members.

Article 133 — This constitution shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be in force from the date of its publication.

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Algeria

Algeria: Haddam Accuses Security Forces of Massacre in Tlemcen

LD2006090396 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Anouar Haddam, one of the leaders in exile of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has made an accusation. According to him the Algerian forces definitely massacred 300 civilians in Tlemcen at the beginning of June in retaliation for an attack, after having lost a fight with an armed group in which two Algerian top officers were killed, still according to Anouar Haddam.

Algeria: Presidency Assesses Answers to 6 May Memorandum

LD1906210696 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidency of the republic has issued an initial assessment of the written replies to the presidency's memorandum, addressed on 6 May to the partners in the [national] dialogue.

According to the presidency of the republic's statement, the proposals included in the memorandum have been generally approved by the majority of partners.

In this context, the same source pointed out that of the 199 partners to whom the memorandum was presented, 182 expressed stances on all the issues put forward.

Of the replies, 58 percent were noted to have expressed supportive points of view, 5 percent expressed dissenting opinions, and 6 percent had reservations. As for the remaining 31 per cent, they did not express any opinion.

The presidency of the republic said that the contents of the memorandum and the replies would form the core of the second stage of the dialogue, as the president of the republic, Mr Liamine Zeroual, had expressed earlier.

God willing, we shall have more details about this subject in our third detailed bulletin at 1930 [1830 GMT] this evening.

Algeria: Further on Assessment of Referendum Answers

LD1906215496 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The presidency of the republic today issued a statement which contained a summary of the political and social partners' replies to the presidential memorandum. [passage omitted]

A review of the partners' replies is with Noureddine Moussadik:

[Begin Moussadik recording] The political and social partners' replies to the presidency's memorandum were generally positive. Sixty-eight percent of those replies expressed support for the overall attempt proposed by the president of the republic, while only 2.20 percent expressed opposition to the attempt.

The statement of the presidency of the republic pointed out that the analysis of the replies revealed that the presidential proposals on the project for amending the constitution obtained the support of 67 percent of the partners but was opposed by 13 percent.

The proposals on [the formation of] political parties were supported by 57 percent and opposed by 8 percent, while the rest have not expressed any stance on these proposals.

Regarding the issue of electoral law, the analysis of the replies revealed that 60 percent of the partners preferred proportional voting system by lists and 4.40 percent expressed reservations in this respect. According to the presidency statement they justified this by the lack of government stability, which is fundamentally connected with this type of voting, or due to a constituency's choice.

Regarding the proposed national conference, 64 percent of the replies supported the holding of this conference to endorse a political platform aimed at consolidating national accord.

Lastly, regarding the partners' stance on the timetable, 59 percent did not express a stance on this issue because they considered it to be among the president of the republic's powers. Thirty-one percent expressed their open support for the timetable proposed by the presidency of the republic. [end recording]

In addition to the positive reply to the totality of the presidency's memorandum, some of its parts have attracted the interest of the political and social partners.

The proposal for giving the prime minister the power to inform the constitutional council has been approved. The same applies to the proposal for the creation of the state's supreme court and the state council.

The [proposal for the] establishment of a second chamber has also acquired the approval of 109 partners. Twelve partners only have expressed rejection of this proposal.

It remains to be pointed out that the content of the presidential memorandum and the replies it obtains will form the core of the second stage of the national dialogue, as the president of the republic had announced.

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Egypt

Egypt: 'Silent Crisis' With U.S. Over Sudan Alleged

NC1906200796 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 9 Jun 96 pp 1, 11

[Report by Badra Bakhus al-Fighali from Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Egypt's Dilemma in Sudan" is the title of a Western diplomatic report that an important European capital has received from Cairo. The report speaks of a silent diplomatic crisis between Egypt and the United States because of the Egyptian Government's opposition to the imposition of military and economic sanctions on Sudan. The report says President Husni Mubarak is coming under strong U.S. pressure and that he is afraid he will lose his influence with the Sudanese opposition groups present on his territory.

According to the report, Egypt claims that the aims of the military sanctions are to weaken the Sudanese regime, establish an independent state in southern Sudan, and cut off its water supplies from the River Nile. The report says if there is really a U.S. plan to establish an independent state in southern Sudan, then Egypt's support for or opposition to the sanctions neither accelerates nor delays the implementation of this goal.

The report stresses that the Sudanese regime is suffering from an undeclared international embargo. It buys weapons only from China with Iranian funds. Egypt's opposition to the sanctions will damage its relations with Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Uganda. Egypt accuses these states of being partners in the U.S.-Israeli plan in Africa.

The report adds that all the Sudanese opposition factions have criticized Egypt's stance. The Egyptian stance has weakened the position of Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the opposition National Democratic Grouping and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]. The DUP, Egypt's traditional ally in Sudan, has been forced to transfer a large number of its cadres to the Eritrean capital of Asmara.

The report notes that the U.S. Administration is continuing its pressure on the Sudanese Government to deport all the "Afghan Arabs" from Sudanese territory and pressured it to disclose all of Usamah Bin-Ladin's movements and activities in Sudan before he was deported to Somalia.

The report also discloses that the U.S. ambassador in Cairo has visited Khartoum, showing his recognition of the right of that region [southern Sudan] to self-determination.

Egypt: Commentary Views Israeli Government's 'Negative' Program

NC2006124996 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "A Summit To Emphasize Arab Rights, Security, and Peace for All"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The expanded Arab summit to be held in the next three days is undoubtedly one of the most important developments at the Arab and regional levels in the 1990's. This is because of the regional conditions surrounding the summit and the challenges facing it. [passage omitted]

The present situation involves the restoration of Arab rights, the collective Arab rights, and the present and future of the entire Middle East. It gets more serious if we take into consideration media reports on the Israeli Government's program. We do not want to jump ahead of events and talk about the resolutions the Arab summit may take on the conditions surrounding the peace process. However, without beating around the bush, we can state that this program is completely negative and cannot lead to peace with the Palestinians and Syrians unless it is amended. This means it is impossible to reach a comprehensive peace with the Arab states.

We will not stop before the details of the Israeli program, as reported by the media. We will only affirm that the program clearly breaks the principle on which the peace process was based in Madrid; namely, the land-for-peace principle and the resolutions the United Nations adopted on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The program, as reported by the media, offers the Palestinians an autonomy under Israel's control, holds on to settlements in the occupied lands, keeps Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel, and, accordingly, rejects the establishment of the Palestinian state.

As far as the Syrian track is concerned, the program is based on maintaining Israel's sovereignty over Golan. If it is wrong in politics to judge matters by appearance, we have to say that Binyamin Netanyahu's government program in the form reported by the media topples the peace process from its base. The new Israeli prime minister announced he will resume the peace process and that he is seeking peace. This makes us wonder, as Israeli key officials, primarily the prime minister, obviously build their policy on the principle that Israel's power is capable of forcing their conditions for peace on Arab states and people. They do not consider anyone's security or interests but Israel's. This is wrong and will have serious repercussions. Arab peoples have existed for thousands of years. They will continue to exist till the end of time with their roots, heritage, capabilities,

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resources, interests, identity, and dignity. It is Israel who has to choose between living with neighbors in peace or in a constant conflict. Over history, brutal power has never succeeded in achieving its goals at the expense of other people's rights.

Egypt: Alleged 'Special FBI Agent' Tells Story

JN1906142296 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 June 96 pp 4-7

[Interview with Sultan al-Zakhari, alleged U.S. Customs Service informer and "special FBI agent," by Hammudah Kamil in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The saga began in 1985, the year Mamduh Zakhari travelled to the United States, where he met Sultan al- Jawli, a leading extremist who was close to 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Al-Jawli proposed that Zakhari work with him to smuggle arms and explosives to Palestinian organizations. Zakhari tipped off the U.S. Customs authorities, which asked him to play along. Eventually, al-Jawli was arrested, charged, and sentenced to 60 years in prison. Zakhari says al-Jawli served only two years of his sentence and was then freed because of pressure on the United States by a Middle Eastern country!

Zakhari contends that the U.S. Administration owes him the $2-million reward promised to anyone who exposes and informs on any intended act of terrorism. Paradoxically, Zakhari says, the United States has now barred him from reentering the country and has denied him American citizenship. The visa he obtained in 1991 has expired, even though the Americans are beholden to him.

Aware of the clout Israel has with the United States, Zakhari went to Israel in 1991 and sought to enlist Tel Aviv's support for his effort to win his "entitlement" to American citizenship! When he returned, his name was put on the list of Egyptians banned from travelling abroad. He wonders: "Why me?" He is demanding that he appear before the Egyptian public prosecutor to present his case and regain his freedom if he is found innocent, or be stripped of his citizenship if he is found guilty.

The "important" secret disclosed by Mamduh Zakhari is that, anxious to appease Iran, the United States exonerated it of the "Lockerbie" charge and attached the blame to Libya instead. He vows that he has enough evidence to back up his story! Now to the specifics:

A Telephone conversation

[Kamil] Hello, who's speaking?

[Zakhari] I'm an Egyptian who may renounce his citizenship.

[Kamil] Could you be more specific?

[Zakhari] I'll tell you everything when we meet.

Interview

[Kamil] Now tell me what this is all about, from the start.

[Zakhari] My name is... (He paused for a moment, as if he were thinking)

[Kamil] Are you trying to remember your name?

[Zakhari] No, it's not that. It is just that I am thinking about what name to give, my real name or the one kept by the American Federal Bureau of Investigation, or....

Well, I am Mamduh Zaki Zakhari. I was born in Upper Egypt. I lived and went to school in Alexandria. I traded in cars and travelled to many Arab and other countries. (He then took a sip from the cup of tea in front of him).

On one of my trips to the United States in early 1985, I met with "Sultan Ibrahim al-Jawli," the proprietor of the travel agency that gave me the plane ticket, in New Jersey. We had a conversation. Sultan asked that I see him when I returned. He let me know that he wanted us to do "business" together. I visited him when I returned. He asked about the possibility of procuring arms and explosives. I asked for whom. He said they were for our Palestinian brothers in the PLO to use inside and outside the United States. I did not say yes nor no, but set about checking up on him.

[Kamil] And what did you learn about him?

[Zakhari] I learned that he is Egyptian, from Port Said. He fled from Egypt to the United States during Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's rule. He sought and won political asylum and then got the U.S. citizenship. A powerful and influential leading terrorist figure, Sultan al-Jawli rubbed shoulders with 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, along with other associates, like Ibn-Halim, Nidal 'Ayyad, Siddiq 'Ali, and Sayyid Nusayr, as well as others who plan and carry out terrorist attacks in the United States and elsewhere. Al-Jawli had lots of money. When I learned that, besides the travel agency, he owned several other businesses, I sensed danger.

U.S. Customs Service Notified

[Kamil] What did you do then?

[Zakhari] I approached the U.S. Customs Service and asked to meet with a staff member. My request was granted, and I told the staff member the whole story. He

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asked me to play along with Sultan al-Jawli's plan. At the same time, he left me in no doubt as to the potential danger I was letting myself into and assured me that I had the choice to say no. But I did not. Sultan al-Jawli and I met several times after that. I was careful to record the proceedings of these meetings through bugs that I had planted on various parts of my body. I impressed on him that I wanted to meet his demands, to the extent that I brought him a sample of a dangerous explosive substance known as (MIAA) C-4.

[Kamil] Did you meet any PLO officials?

[Zakhari] When we were close to closing a deal, I met with a person who said his name is "Sa'id Hassan" and that he was speaking in the PLO's name. He was supposed to foot the bill for the substance by paying in cash or gold. I later found out that his real name is M.A. Abu-Shaqrah and he lives in a Middle Eastern country.

[Kamil] So al-Jawli did not see through your false identity?

[Zakhari] No, he didn't. I was too circumspect for him and continued to be that way until everything fell into place and I had enough evidence to nail him. He was nabbed with the knowledge of customs officers in December 1985, and he stood trial in July 1986. In the meantime, I was placed under the protection of U.S. Customs officers because I was the only prosecution witness. Although he hired the services of three fine Jewish attorneys to plead his case, he was convicted and sentenced to 60 years in jail.

[Kamil] How did the Americans proceed after the court case?

[Zakhari] Catching Sultan al-Jawil and foiling his terrorist plans were a coup for the U.S. Administration. But the U.S. Administration has failed to deliver on its promises to me.

[Kamil] Did the U.S. Administration promise you anything?

[Zakhari] Not personally. But there was a U.S. Government announcement promising a cash reward of $2 million to anyone who helped foil or informed on an act of terror. But look what happened.

Al-Jawli Freed Under Pressure From Saudi Arabia

[Kamil] Was the case closed with the incarceration of Sultan al-Jawli?

[Zakhari] That was what I thought. Two months after the jail sentence, in October 1986, al-Jawli's confederates made a failed attempt to kidnap me and my wife. God saved us from falling into their hands. After reporting the kidnap attempt to U.S. authorities, I was placed in the U.S. Marshals' witness protection program at the request of U.S. Congressman Burt Watson. I was later involved in a car accident that left me with permanent traumas and disabilities, for which I had to undergo treatment for many years.

Sultan al-Jawli, having served only two years of his jail sentence, was freed after certain Arab governments interceded on his behalf. For the record, the U.S. Administration has enough intelligence and information about terrorist groups in the United States and, if so inclined, it could wipe them out. It does not do this because of the considerable influence they wield and in order to appease certain Middle Eastern countries.

[Kamil] How did you become associated with the FBI?

[Zakhari] Mindful of my involvement in Sultan al-Jawli's case, the Customs Service nominated me to work with the FBI, which in turn satisfied themselves that I was up to the job. I became a special FBI agent under the name of "Mike John Wolf" or "the One-Eyed Wolf." My contact was "Kenneth Straits".

[Kamil] Were you given other names?

[Zakhari] Yes, the code name I chose for myself for the FBI was "Mubarak."

[Kamil] What role did you have in al-Sayyid Nusayr's case?

[Zakhari] I met al-Sayyid Nusayr and al-Jabruni, among others, while I was in contact with Sultan al-Jawli. I was present at a meeting that brought together 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, al-Sayyid Nusayr, and a third man named Mustafa. That meeting was to plan the murder of Rabbi Me'ir Kahane, a piece of information that they shared with me. Afterward, al-Sayyid Nusayr carried out the attack and killed Kahane. Nusayr was later hit by several bullets fired by a postal guard who happened to be on the scene. Al-Sayyid Nusayr was hospitalized and in a coma for four days. He was under guard, and no one had a clue about his identity. This was because a number of identification cards with various names, addresses, and professions were found on him, thus rendering identification or a background check virtually impossible. Of course, he was eventually identified, and his terrorist background and activities came to light.

New York's World Trade Center Bombing

[Kamil] What do you know about the bombing of New York's World Trade Center?

[Zakhari] I knew about that one and another one three years before it happened. I was told that some people working for Islamic groups operating out of al-Salam and al-Faruq Mosques, with help from certain

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Palestinian elements, were planning to blow up and destroy American and Jewish targets and assassinate U.S. Senators Alfonse D'Amato and Senator Patrick Moynihan. That was in late 1990, but apparently no preemptive measures had been taken and so the New York Trade Center was blown up and destroyed and an attempt on D'Amato's life was made in 1993.

[Kamil] Were you in the United States then?

[Zakhari] No. My visa expired in 1991, so I had to return to Egypt. Before that, however, with the assistance of Attorney General Michael Sheratoff [name as transliterated], I requested political asylum. My request for asylum was also endorsed by the U.S. Customs Service. A date for an interview was set for 22 June 1992, but Egyptian authorities did not notify me of this date in order to keep me from getting U.S. citizenship. The rejection came from both the United States and my own country, Egypt.

[Kamil] Why would the United States not want you to return?

[Zakhari] Keep in mind that the United States is under an obligation to pay me $2 million. That is one reason. Another reason is a false, inexplicable claim made by a female employee, Halah al-Massiri, in the consular section of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. She said that I gained access to the embassy building and made a failed attempt to blow it up. The embassy has since denied me a travel visa to pursue my rights, although my family, my mother and brothers, still live there.

I Did Not Seek Political Asylum in Israel

[Kamil] Why would Egypt not want you to go the United States?

[Zakhari] After my attempts to return to the United States came to nothing, I decided to travel to Israel for more than one reason. For one thing, I know the extent of Israel's influence on the United States. I thought Israel might help me gain my rights and American citizenship. The Knesset tried to help, and Israeli newspapers reported my story. Journalist (Hadas Manor) of MA'ARIV interviewed me on the subject. I also wanted to make a pilgrimage to Bayt al- Maqdis [Jerusalem]. Thirdly, I wanted to purchase the house where I live now from its Jewish owner, Marcelle Rose Mazwik [name as transliterated], who lives in Tel Aviv. Yet another reason was to undergo treatment at a famous therapy center there.

My trip to Israel, however, angered the Egyptian Government. I have been accused of asking for political asylum in Israel. This is a lie, and there is no proof of this claim. Was my trip to Israel a crime? If it was, why did they grant me the visa in the first place? Was it so that I would make the black list of persons banned from travelling outside the country? Am I the only one who has travelled to Israel? Many from the arts and entertainment fields and senior figures have made frequent visits to Israel, along with their families, and yet they continue to enjoy freedom in their country!

In any case, after I returned from Israel, I wished I had never been there. I was dismayed by the dreary sight of our embassy in Israel, located, as it is, in an outlying suburb that once served as a prison. I was also angered by the Israelis' reference to our ambassador there, Muhammad Basyuni, as the clown [preceding word in English]—something he is aware of, but does nothing about.

Libya Innocent of Lockerbie

[Kamil] Earlier in our conversation, you said you had a secret to tell me. What is it?

[Zakhari] It has to do with the Lockerbie bombing, of which Libya stands accused and for which it has had to endure sanctions that were hastily imposed by the UN Security Council. I declare that Libya is innocent of this incident and that Iran is completely responsible for it. The explosives on the plane were detonated by an atmospheric pressure device, "a barometer," rather than the a "timer." The idea was to appease Iran and, on the other hand, make Libya a scapegoat and put it in the dock. I have the proof to back up this claim.

[Kamil] You said during the phone conversation that you wanted to renounce your citizenship?

[Zakhari] Nobody can match my love for Egypt. I was deeply hurt when I felt like a stranger in my own country and was robbed of my freedom without having committed a crime. I ask that my case be heard before the public prosecutor, so that I can regain my freedom and be removed from the list of persons under a travel ban. If the public prosecutor finds me guilty, he can order my citizenship withheld because I would not merit it. But I would not trade my Egyptian nationality for any other citizenship.

Egypt: Libya's al-Fazzani Meets Musa, Reveals Plan for Arab Unity

NC1906153496 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for unity.

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Al-Fazzani said the meeting was part of consultations between Egypt and Libya on the upcoming Arab summit and preparations for it. He said his country is reassured about the summit because of the serious preparations for it, the issues it will discuss, and the results it will produce.

He said Libya will propose a plan under the name "Arab Union" to govern mechanisms of common Arab action and so consolidate Arab solidarity. He said the plan is headlined "the Arab Unity League." The league will have a presidential council so that Arab summits can be convened regularly, he said. He said the plan includes an executive council comprising Arab prime ministers and specialized ministerial councils.

Al-Fazzani said this is the minimum level [of unity] through which one of the Arab leaders will be the president of all the Arabs. This will create harmony in Arab-Arab relations and lead to common Arab action and to economic, social, and other agreements, he said.

Al-Fazzani said he will lead his country's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers meeting, which will be held Friday morning. He said the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union will hold consultations on the sidelines of the Arab summit.

Al-Fazzani would not say whether the Libyan delegation to the summit will be led by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, or by someone else.

Egypt: Al-Wasat Party Members' Military Trial Begins

NC1506153996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—The Higher Military Court held its first session today to try the al-Wasat Party case. It involves 13 defendants from among the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood. The session started amid strict security measures and was attended by 12 defendants. One defendant released for health reasons did not attend the session.

The defendants in the al-Wasat Party case are Muhammad Mahdi 'Uthman 'Akif, a former member of the People's Assembly, 68; 'Isam 'Abd-al-Halim Ibrahim Hashish, 46, an assistant professor at the College of Engineering in Cairo University; 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan Ibrahim al-Ghazali, 59, a professor at the Economics and Political Sciences College; Jamal 'Abd-al-Hadi Muhammad Mas'ud, 60, visiting professor of Islamic history at al-Azhar University; Rashad Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad al-Bayyumi, a professor at the College of Science in Cairo University, 61; Mustafa Tahir 'Ali al-Ghunaymi, 40, physician; Majdi al-Faruq Anwar Muhammad, 39, watchmaker; Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Fattah, Arabic language teacher; Mahmud Ahmad 'Umar al- 'Arayshi, 72, a professor at the Agriculture College of al-Azhar University; Abu-al-'Ula Madi Abu-al-'Ula, 38, a freelance engineer; Mahmud 'Ali 'Ali Abu-Rayyah, 74, chief of a press warehouse; 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abdallah al-Mughrabi, 68, retired, released for health reasons; and Husni Judah 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Uways, a retired 67-year-old.

The defendants confirmed their refusal to appoint defense attorneys because their trial before a military court is unconstitutional and illegal. They said they would defend themselves. They pointed out that their trial should take place before regular judges in the civil courts.

They also asked that they be allowed to read the file of the case, hear the testimony of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and include the Sharm al-Shaykh summit resolutions in the file. They clarified that they are a group of thinkers who do not believe in violence. Two defendants, No. 11, Mahmud 'Ali Abu-Rayyah, and No. 13, Husni Judah 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Uways, asked to be released for health reasons; they said they need special medical attention.

The president of the court affirmed that the law and the Constitution dictated to the experts involved that the case be transferred to the military court; that the court work on establishing justice; that the court consider legitimate measures; and that the defendants appoint lawyers for themselves to refute the charges against them. Otherwise, the court will appoint them defense attorneys.

The president of the court then read the indictment list based on the request from the defendants. It contained one charge that the defendants, contrary to the law, had managed the Muslim Brotherhood. The objective behind this was to call for obstructing the laws and the Constitution. Soon after sentence was issued against some of the leaders of the organization in previous cases, the defendants studied the new conditions and evaluated their moves with the objective of appointing new leaders and recruiting new members to incite the people against the existing regime.

At the end of the session, which went on for one and a half hours, the decision was made to postpone trying the case until the 25 June session, to appoint defense lawyers for the defendants, and release defendants Mahmud Abu-Rayyah and Husni Judah 'Uways with a guarantee of their place of residence.

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Libya

Libya: 'Libyan Conservative Party' Goes Public in London

MM2006101796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 96 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Organization Publicly Declares Its Political Activities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A Libyan opposition organization calling itself the "Libyan Conservative Party" [al-hizb al-muhafiz al-libi] announced yesterday its decision to operate publicly, calling, among other things, for the restoration of the monarchy in Libya. A statement issued by the new organization said that "with God's help the rays of the Libyan Conservative Party have emerged to add more light and brightness to the sun of freedom."

The statement also said that the party's aims "are to contribute to bringing about change in Libya, refer to God's Book as a principal law, restore the legitimate monarchy, work to set up independent judicial control to monitor the three powers, safeguard liberties, and contribute to restoring the parliament and calling for free parliamentary elections."

The party's founder and leader is Dr. Yusuf Yunus al-Khaddar, who, according to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, spent a long time in prison before fleeing the country a few years ago. Libyan opposition sources describe him as "a sincere Libyan citizen who is serious in his orientations."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Khaddar said that his party "was set up inside Libya several years ago, and performed its political activities secretly until it went public in the United Kingdom in mid-March 1996." Asked about the number of the new organization's members, he said that "the party is comprised of several members who have a background of and are familiar with the Libyan issue and the Libyan people's suffering."

Morocco

Morocco: Prime Minister To Attend Cairo Summit

LD1906220296 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has said today that Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, will represent Morocco at the Arab summit scheduled to be held on 22 and 23 June in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.

Morocco: Gunmen Attempt To Assassinate Jewish Community Leader

LD1906221096 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Morocco yesterday there was an attempt on the life of Babi Azinkoff, vice-president of the Jewish community in Casablanca, who was shot and seriously wounded by two gunmen who managed to escape.

Morocco: Report Alleges Continued Widespread Official Use of Torture

LD2006103796 Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 13 Jun 96 pp 1, 4

[Report of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights: "The Phenomenon Is Widening With the Hospitality of the Government"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The national council of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights has issued a report, which was distributed yesterday, on the practice of torture in Morocco. The report touched briefly upon the following points: evidence and indications of torture; methods of torture mentioned by victims at public meetings; the absence of any administrative or judicial investigation in this respect; the problem of escaping punishment.

The report arrived at a number of conclusions, the most prominent of which were that the Moroccan state has not implemented the provisions of the international agreement against torture and other methods of severe, inhumane, or humiliating treatment, which it ratified three years ago yet has not published in the official gazette.

The organization stressed, once again, the necessity for constitutional, legislative, and administrative reform of the judiciary and for a constitutional ban on torture. It also called for a purge of the police and gendarmerie forces and for actions to pursue those who practice torture and their accomplices.

Is not torture still a widespread and accepted method within the framework of police investigation in Morocco? Numerous events and indications, regrettably, confirm this. The practice of torture remains a preferred method within civil cases just as it has long been infamously used in investigations of a political nature.

Since its foundation the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights has prepared more than 20 files, all of which are related to the death of citizens while under supervision at the headquarters of the judicial police. A great number of people have complained

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before public prosecution or before courts of being subjected to bodily violence and torture. Although there are indications suggesting that the practice of torture has been on the decline since 1992, nonetheless, the practice has not disappeared completely. Complaints against torture during trials connected with arms and drug smuggling can not be considered as mere claims of people in difficult situations. The serious examples observed publicly confirm without doubt that public officials are still resorting to the practice of torture in order to extract "confessions." [passage omitted]

Conclusions and recommendations:

The Moroccan state has not implemented the provisions of the international agreement against torture and other forms of severe, inhumane, or humiliating treatment or punishment, which it approved three years ago. Furthermore, this agreement has not been published in the official gazette, which means that it is inapplicable at the domestic level. This, once more, is evidence of the official policy on human rights which is centered first and foremost on polishing the image of the state at the international level without having any effect on the actual exercise of these rights, especially the right to live and the right to body safety.

Therefore, the national council of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights:

1. Renews the organization's demands calling for the publication of the text of the agreement in the official gazette and its actual implementation, taking into consideration the recommendations of the UN antitorture committee of November 1994 in the government report;

2. Stresses, once again, the necessity for constitutional, legislative, and administrative reform of the judicial apparatus in order to ensure its independence and impartiality and to enable the actual application of the law to everyone;

3. Demands a constitutional ban on torture and referral to the criminal code which should clearly define the offense of torture and specify the appropriate punishment, keeping in mind that the current code does not consider torture as an offense but as a pressure condition in case of detention or criminal arrest;

4. Calls for a cleansing of the police and gendarmerie forces and the pursuit of those who practice torture and their accomplices;

5. Demands, within a revision of the criminal law, the stipulation of the right of detainees to have the support of their lawyers while in detention, and that the Justice Ministry ensures the public prosecution's respect of the rules of the law;

6. Recommends coordination between the movement of human rights and the societies of social and cultural nature with the aim of fighting and eradicating the plague of torture;

7. Appreciates the recent initiative of creating a coordination committee in Tangier following the death of a young man, Abdelhamid El Murabit.

Sudan

Sudan: Minister Briefs al-Bashir on Contacts With Rebel Faction

EA1906205196 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir was briefed, during a meeting today, by Bishop Gabriel Rorech, minister of state at the Ministry of Foreign Relations, on his trip to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

After the meeting, the minister said the visit was aimed at meeting the political leaders and organizations of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement faction led by John Garang, and to brief them on the contents and dimensions of the political charter for peace signed recently in Khartoum.

He explained that this charter is suitable as an agenda for serious dialogue and is debatable for the sake of reaching a permanent peace in the country. [passage omitted]

The minister explained that the revolution is serious in solving the southern problem, pointing out the recent visits made by state officials, accompanied by Dr. Riak Machar and Kerubino Kuanyin, to positions of the rebels in the south with the aim of convincing them of this seriousness and inviting them to join the peace march.

The minister said he had explained to these leaders the importance of this charter in achieving peace and that it is suitable as a basis for dialogue and reconciliation between all the disputing parties, and that there is no objection to dialogue taking place under the IGAD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Development] umbrella, particularly as the charter is acceptable to the majority of the factions and individuals and it can be explained to those who express reservations about it.

Sudan: Opposition Radio Reports Large-Scale Arrests in Kassala

EA1506165996 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Authorities of the National Islamic Front Party are carrying out a campaign of large-

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scale arrests in Kassala town these days. Eyewitnesses say the arrest of citizens is carried out in houses, streets, and markets. The authorities concentrate on all persons suspected [words indistinct] of being able to bear arms.

Meanwhile, the security forces shave the heads of detainees once they are on the open road. They are then transported to assembly camps outside the town, and they are asked to join people's defense camps under the pretext that they are defending the town from the danger of being attacked by opposition groups. Any detainee who rejects this is charged with coordinating and participating in armed action camps on the eastern Sudanese border.

Citizens in Kassala town now live in a state of extreme alarm, afraid for their young sons, many of whom have begun to migrate to other areas to avoid being pursued, arrested, and forcibly recruited.

Sudan: Islamic-Based Regime Reportedly Facing Defeat

MS1906123496 London INDEPENDENT in English 19 Jun 96 p 10

[Report by David Orr: "Sudan Faces Mutiny and Revolt"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Asmara — Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government could fall within the next two to three weeks, according to the country's main opposition grouping, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The overthrow of the Khartoum regime, said the NDA, would be precipitated by an intifada (uprising), accompanied by the mutiny of a large part of the Sudanese armed forces. The regime of President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir could have collapsed by the middle of next month, they say.

These predictions follow last week's issuing of an NDA ultimatum to the government to step down peacefully. The NDA's members include the two leading opposition parties the Ummah (Nation) Party and the Democratic Unionist Party, as well as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting the forceful imposition of Islam on the southern part of the country since 1983.

"We plan to ignite a popular uprising in a dozen towns and cities across northern Sudan," said 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary of the Ummah Party and a former finance minister. "We don't expect a government capitulation but we do believe there will be military support for the uprising."

Dissatisfaction has been growing with the military junta of General al-Bashir, which is inspired; by the National Islamic Front (NIF) of the ideologue Hasan al-Turabi. The costly effects of the war, human rights abuses and crippling price rises have caused hardship and suffering in the Arab north.

From abroad, there has been mounting criticism of Khartoum, which is accused of sponsoring international terrorism. In April the United Nations imposed diplomatic and travel sanctions on Khartoum for its failure to hand over suspects wanted in connection with last year's attempted assassination of the Egyptian President, Husni Mubarak.

"The time is now ripe for an uprising in Sudan", said Dr Nur-al- Da'im who, with other members of the NDA's opposition-in-exile, is based in the Eritrean capital, Asmara. "There will be casualties — perhaps a few thousand people will die. But the intervention of the army would considerably reduce the bloodshed."

Protests against price rises, in the past largely restricted to the Sudanese capital, have been brutally suppressed by the Khartoum government. The NDA predicts that recent increases in the price of fuel and other commodities will impel large sections of the populace to take to the streets in a show of discontent in coming weeks.

"It is our intention that the Khartoum regime be overthrown from inside Sudan," said General Fathi 'Ali, a former commander of the Sudanese navy and now military head of the NDA based in Asmara.

"We expect the NIF government will try to suppress the planned demonstrations. But more than 90 per cent of the Sudanese army is on our side and there will be a mutiny if the government uses force. The uprising will take several days to build up. Within a week to 10 days we will have secured the overthrow of the regime."

General 'Ali, a graduate of Camberley army staff college, said he could muster a "small but capable armed force" to advance on Khartoum from the Eritrean border region.

Eritrea broke diplomatic relations with Sudan a year and a half ago over Khartoum's support of Eritrean Jihad, a small but potentially destabilising force of exiled Eritreans committed to the overthrow of the secular government of President Isaias Afwerki. Since then Eritrea has been providing military training to the Sudanese opposition at bases in western Eritrea.

"The Sudanese allied forces can be counted in their hundreds," said a Western diplomat in Asmara. "There are guerrilla bands operating out of a number of bases inside Eritrea. Militarily, they're like mosquito bites but

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psychologically they're very important. The opposition has the potential to seriously harass Khartoum. It has forced the Sudanese army to move resources from southern Sudan and deploy significant units in the north-eastern region."

The Eritreans, who recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of their successful struggle for independence from Ethiopia, are regarded as having produced one of the most capable guerrilla forces in African history. The insurgents of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, who now form the ruling Eritrean Party for Democracy and Justice, were backed by Khartoum during their secessionist war.

Like other countries in the region, Eritrea has been unable to dissuade Khartoum from attempts to export Islamic fundamentalism beyond its borders. In recent months there has been an increase in Eritrean Jihad raids into Eritrea from Sudan and the two countries' border region is described as extremely tense. Ethiopia and Uganda have also accused Khartoum of destabilisation by mounting cross- border raids into their territories.

While Ethiopia and Uganda have been circumspect in their support of the Sudanese armed opposition, particularly of the SPLA, Eritrea has made no secret of backing anti-Khartoum elements. The NDA operates openly from the former Sudanese embassy in Asmara.

"We realise there is no possibility of making Khartoum change its mind", said the Eritrean Foreign Minister, Petros Solomon. "It has shown a very clear intention to destroy our government. We have no alternative but to resist and to help the alternative Sudanese political parties press for a change in Khartoum".

Sudan: SPLA's Garang Warns of Islamic Fundamentalism

BR1906104896 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 18 June 96 p 15

[Report on interview with Sudanese People's Liberation Army leader John Garang by Elisabeth Salvesen in Oslo; date not given: "Fighting for a New Sudan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guerrilla leader John Garang wants Norwegian support.

"We are asking for support from Norway to build up a civilian society in the areas of Sudan that we control. The objective is not to tear loose southern Sudan, but to halt Islamic fundamentalism. The future Sudan must have room for both Muslims and Christians, Arabs and Africans.

John Garang, leader of the southern Sudanese guerrilla movement SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] which has been waging an armed struggle against the regime in Khartoum since 1983, said this to ARBEIDERBLADET.

Yesterday Garang had talks with Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal and Under Secretary of State Jan Egeland, and a meeting with representatives for the Kirkens Nodhjelp [Church Emergency Aid] which like the Norsk Folkehjelp [Norwegian People's Aid] is involved in extensive humanitarian aid work in the areas of southern Sudan which Garang controls. Today Garang will meet the leadership of Norks Folkehjelp and tomorrow he will travel to Bergen to discuss a possible seminar with the Christian Michelsen Institute in the fall. There too the main topic will be the construction of a civilian society.

"Invaluable"

"For the last decade we have received invaluable help from both the Norsk Folkehjelp and Kirkens Nodhjelp in the form of emergency aid to the civilian population affected by the war," John Garang said.

"But no one knows when this conflict will end, the initiative for potential new peace negotiations rests with the IGADD [expansion unknown] group (Sudan's' neighbors), and we can no longer simply talk about the society we are going to construct some time in the future. In late April/early May the SPLA held a major conference and laid the foundation for the civilian society we want to build. A society which will not be based on emergency aid and dependence but which can stand on its own feet, invest in long-term development programs, and function independently of what happens in Khartoum," the SPLA leader said.

Fears Partition

[Salvesen] Both the United States and other Western countries have cool relations with the Islamic government in Sudan, but many of them still hesitate to support the South Sudanese guerrilla movement, because they fear a partition of the country and even greater instability in the whole region.

[Garang] The SPLA stands side by side with the opposition in the northern parts of the country in the National Democratic Alliance, which was formed a year ago with a common objective: to remove the National Islamic Front from power in Khartoum and abolish the Shari'a, the Muslim law which was introduced in Sudan in 1983.

Sudan has a great variety of religions, ethnic groups, and races. The country must be governed on this basis and reflect people's wishes. And because a large majority of the population is Christian or Muslim, but does notm support the Islamic fundamentalism, which the regime

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uses to hold onto power, we are fighting for a new united Sudan.

But int he long term if the population of southern Sudan wants a partition, we must look at that and perhaps arrange a referendum. [Garang ends]

Fundamentalism

The SPLA leader stressed that rather than fearing a divided Sudan, the Western world has much greater reason to fear that Islamic fundamentalism will spread on the Horn of Africa and from there over the entire continent.

"The regime in Khartoum supports fundamentalist Islamic groups in neighboring Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Kenya, and clearly has expansionist aims. This is to a large degree a regional conflict and the whole region could go up in flames if the fundamentalists are not stopped," Garang warned.

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda all have cool relations with the Sudanese regime and support the SPLA more or less openly. But there have been several divisions within the SPLA in recent years. There have been struggles between different factions and according to international human rights organizations, both the SPLA and other groups have carried out bloody massacres of civilians.

Not Concerned

Earlier this year a few of Garang's former supporters signed a peace agreement with the regime.

[Salvesen] Many people fear that the regime will now build up the breakaway groups in the hope that different factions in the south will fight against each other, wipe each other out, and in this way solve the whole problem for the regime

"These groups have cooperated with the regime since 1991. The agreement they signed recently with the regime was just a formalization of this cooperation," John Garang said, expressing no concern over the situation.

"The SPLA and the opposition to the regime in the north have a strong position today. The SPLA has control over most of southern and eastern Sudan, except for a few of the towns, which the government still controls," Garang said.

The regime in Khartoum, which came to power in a military coup in 1989, claims for its part that Garang only has control over one province and a few limited areas in other places in the south.

Tunisia

Tunisia: Foreign Minister Views Situation After Israeli Elections

AU1906144996 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 19 Jun 96 p 2

[Interview with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia by Lucian O. Meysels; place and date not given: "We Understand That the New Israeli Government May Need Some Time"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Meysels] On the eve of the Cairo summit, the Arab world seems split over many aspects of the Middle East problem. Does Tunisia see itself as a mediator?

[Ben Yahia] I do not agree with your statement on the split in the Arab camp. In the runup to the conference, the Arab states agreed on a common position. We are all concerned, which is understandable under the circumstances. Of course, there are differences of opinion in the Arab world, but there is agreement on the fundamental points.

[Meysels] To what extent is "distant" Tunisia affected by the most recent developments?

[Ben Yahia] From the very beginning, Tunisia has played an important role in the peace process. We were asked for help at the Madrid conference, particularly because the PLO headquarters were located in Tunis at the time. We were ready any time to provide help. After all, peace yields a dividend for everyone. Considerable progress has been achieved since 1991 and we hope that there will be no attempt to return to the beginning or to question the agreements.

[Meysels] Does the new Israeli Government deserve a certain period of grace?

[Ben Yahia] We have appealed to he new government to continue the peace process. If it needs some time, we will understand that. However, it is necessary for Israel to issue a declaration, supporting the "mentality of peace." Mentality and peace are closely linked. Otherwise we will relapse into the old times.

[Meysels] It is apparently the task of every Israeli government to control extremism in its own camp. Does this also apply to the Arabs as far as Hamas and Hizballah are concerned?

[Ben Yahia] Tunisia succeeded in tackling this challenge as far back as a few years ago. We decided to solve this problem globally, as it were. We did not only use police methods but carried out social, economic, and educational reforms. Religious instruction was another

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field. We are proud of our religion and we do not mix religion and terrorism. We do not believe that our solution can be exported, but it shows that responsibility does not lie only on one side.

[Meysels] Nevertheless, some kind of unholy alliance exists between the Jewish extremists who killed Yitzhaq Rabin and the Hamas and Hizballah terrorists who contributed decisively to Shim'on Peres's defeat.

[Ben Yahia] There is an objective alliance.

[Meysels] Are you saying that they have the same objective, which is to torpedo the peace process? In spite of that, do you consider the peace process irreversible?

[Ben Yahia] As I said at the beginning, peace yields a dividend for everyone. I hope that responsible (Israeli — editors) politicians recognize this, that one cannot enforce security with guns.

[Meysels] But this also includes the living standards of the Palestinians.

[Ben Yahia] Yes. I was referring to that when I spoke of a global solution. Poverty and peace cannot coexist.

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GCC: New GCC Assistant Secretary General To Assume Duties

LD1906213696 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 Jun (SPA) — Dr. Abdullah Bin Salih Mubarak al-Khulayfi today assumed his duties as assistant secretary general for economic affairs at the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Kuwait: Shaykh Sa'd To Lead Kuwaiti Delegation To Arab Summit

LD1906171696 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Jun — The State of Kuwait today reaffirmed its welcome of the plenary Arab summit conference due to be held in Cairo on Saturday [22 June].

This came in a statement made by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs, minister of planning and acting foreign minister, after an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, which was held to review the issues that will be dealt with at the forthcoming Arab summit. Shaykh Sa'd will lead the Kuwaiti delegation to the summit. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Crown Prince To Represent King Fahd at Cairo Summit

LD1906194696 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have received the following announcement from the Royal Court:

In lieu of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, will lead the Saudi delegation which will be taking part in the Arab summit due to be held in Cairo on Friday next [21 Jun]. May God protect the crown prince.

Yemen

Yemen: Salih, IMF Delegation Discuss Economic Reform Program

JN1906171396 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, received a visiting delegation from the International Monetary Fund [IMF] at noon today. The meeting was attended by Vice President Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.

The delegation members briefed the president on the results of their talks with the government concerning the implementation of the second stage of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program. They expressed great satisfaction with the positive results that have been made during the implementation process. They also expressed satisfaction with the reduction in inflation rates, the relative stabilization of the currency, the halt in economic deterioration, and the achievement of good growth rates. They praised the government's bold measures and decisions, which have helped overcome difficulties and have paved the way for attaining the projected objectives of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program. Foremost of these objectives is improving the living conditions of people and promoting comprehensive development. The delegation members said they appreciated our country's democratic approach. They expressed admiration for the progress in political life, including political pluralism, freedom of the press and speech, and a desire to protect human rights. They stressed that, as representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and Latin American states, their countries will continue to support Yemen technically and financially so that it can overcome all its hardships.

Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih thanked the IMF's delegation for their interest in reform-related issues in our country and for their help in implementing the plans and programs aimed at improving economic conditions. He said that our country looks forward to a bigger role for the IMF and the donor nations in terms of helping to implement the remaining stages of the program. He said that this will help entrench democracy and political and party pluralism in our country, which should be coupled with improving the living conditions of people through the positive results of economic, financial, and administrative reform.

The audience was attended by Finance Minister Engineer Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd and Central Bank Governor 'Alawi Salih al-Salami.

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Iraq: Ekeus Interviewed Prior to Baghdad Trip

MM1906152196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 96 p 2

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, by Khalil Matar in New York "prior to his departure for Baghdad"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Matar] You have just returned from a meeting with the [UN] Security Council president, during which you informed him of what has happened since last Friday [14 June]. What did you tell him?

[Ekeus] After the [Security] Council adopted its resolution and the president issued his statement on Friday, and out of our desire to give Iraq the opportunity to analyze the council's statement, senior inspector Nikita Smidovich went to one of the sites at 1700 hours and told Iraqi officials that the resolution and the statement stipulate that [the inspectors] be allowed to enter the site immediately. But the Iraqis refused to allow him to enter the site. So Smidovich told the inspectors to leave the area around the site.

He went to another site at 1800 hours and said the same thing, but the Iraqis also refused [to allow entry], so he told the team to leave. The same thing happened at a third site at 1900 hours.

What happened was clear, so the Iraqis cannot deny that they refused [to allow the inspectors to enter the sites]. The team headed for Bahrain on Sunday.

[Matar] Why did they leave Iraq? Does that not give the Iraqis the impression that they succeeded in their refusal, so that they could do it again as long as the price is merely a resolution or a statement?

[Ekeus] That may be said, but I do not believe that it is what happened. We have a clear refusal, and the council confirmed this in its statement, which is considered a political factor because it was issued after the resolution had been adopted. It is of no benefit to us to wait another day or more, because there is an official Iraqi refusal to allow the inspectors to enter the sites. We should not expect the council to meet on Sunday to take another measure, since we should take account of the council's dignity.

The resolution was adopted in accordance with Chapter VII of the [UN] Charter. The president's statement was strongly worded, and Iraq continued to violate the resolutions. This is why we officially withdrew the teams, since the Iraqi refusal was confirmed during Smidovich's visits to the three sites on Saturday, and he made a reference to the council's resolution and the statement issued by its president.

The council wants a report from me on this issue in order to act on the basis of it. This is the next step. So the council will receive the report from me, not the inspection team. This is progress, not a setback.

[Matar] So you are finally confirming what the Iraqis say about you, namely that you are a political, not a technical, envoy.

[Ekeus] Part of my job is technical, of course. The last paragraph in the president's statement, which requests that I submit a report on my visit, confirms this. But there is another element, that is to conduct an exploratory dialogue over the questions that fall within the framework of the commission's mission. I am very satisfied with this point.

[Matar] But it seems that this language is identical to the Iraqis' language and their invitation to you to visit Baghdad.

[Ekeus] It is the language I spoke to the Iraqis. As is known, I was in Baghdad in April, and I specifically requested a dialogue over future affairs. I pointed in my report in the same month to joint measures by the commission and Iraq to initiate such a dialogue. I managed to secure unofficial adoption of this idea from all the Security Council members, including the United States, who admired the idea. But [Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz paid no attention to this idea during my talks with him. He just criticized and criticized and criticized...since then I have been expressing my alarm to the Iraqis at the failure of that trip. I informed them of this, just as I informed the council.

We are proud of what we did, and I am ready for such a dialogue. However, I want to lay future foundations to help the Iraqis and to implement the council's resolutions.

[Matar] The Iraqis say that it was they who invited you and they indirectly link what happened last week with your visit, saying that it was not you who decided to make the visit.

[Ekeus] No, that did not happen. I was asked to give them four weeks to study the situation without conducting any inspection operations during that period. That was after we had informed them that we were going [to Baghdad] to conduct inspection operations, since I did not want any crises. We knew that the inspection operation was a sensitive issue and that it would involve sensitive sites. This is why I wrote a specific message to Tariq 'Aziz, of which I informed the

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council's members. It was a crucial message that pointed to the operation since the April report. We wanted to solve problems through dialogue, not inspection, but the Iraqis did not accept the idea and decided to turn to others to solve the problems.

But a few days before the date set for the inspection operation, they requested more time, specifically four weeks, after which we would return [to Baghdad].

[Matar] That was nearly 10 days ago.

[Ekeus] Yes, on 5 June. They said: "Please do not conduct that operation." But we said that it was too late, because the operation had been planned and we have no assurances, since all they said was that something would happen after the four weeks, without mentioning anything specific. However, following the consultations conducted with all the council's members, the council espoused our operation.

[Matar] And why did you agree to delay it for four weeks?

[Ekeus] They started talking about that late in April, and obviously they are now going to say that this is untrue. But many of my aides heard it clearly: No to another inspection operation. Some of the member states who maintain good relations with Iraq intervened with Baghdad and said: What is that foolish action? The Iraqis said that they "were misunderstood." So they came back with that message, namely that they wanted four weeks — which is certainly progress, but we cannot not stop the inspection operation without any specific promises. If they had said, give us four weeks and we will give a full list, we would have agreed. That was my aim behind inspection operation No. 150, namely that they should say to us, we will submit what you want after these four weeks. But we have suspended the operation, which is complex. Most inspectors are professionals, except the leaders, who are our employees. But most of them are technicians working in laboratories.

[Matar] They are not all spies?

[Ekeus] (laughing) No, they are ordinary employees.

[Matar] And you're the biggest spy, according to the Iraqis.

[Ekeus] (laughing) I will submit my report to the Security Council. If that is espionage, it is in the Security Council's interests.

[Matar] So you will become an international spy. But why did they request that the inspection operation be suspended? Did they give a reason?

[Ekeus] The idea started in April, when I proposed that the lists concerning the previous programs be discussed. Of course, there are numerous elements which I am not going to reveal. But the main issue is these lists, as I was prepared to send a specialist team every month to work jointly for a week or 10 days each time to secure a solution to this issue. But they still have not responded to this proposal. In all the discussions they wanted to talk about the past. We hope they will discuss the matter with us.

[Matar] Why did they reject inspection for four weeks?

[Ekeus] They have said via diplomatic channels that they did not mean all inspection operations, only the sensitive sites. However, they did not say that at the beginning. We have careful and accurate notes about the meetings. The talk about the four weeks emerged only in late May and early June.

The problem is that we have two types of inspection: the first is the ordinary observation of the known sites, and the second concerns the sites where we are looking for what the Iraqis are concealing. We go to the sites where we believe the Iraqis are hiding prohibited things, which is why they are considered "sensitive." So the justification is to do with the Iraqis, because it means: Do not go to the site because we are hiding something there.

[Matar] What is national security?

[Ekeus] It is somewhere where they are hiding prohibited items for which we are searching, which is why it is considered a sensitive issue concerning national security.

[Matar] The operation started in Abu Gharib then moved to other sites, and it is not known what you have been focusing on over the past week. What happened?

[Ekeus] The chaos was caused by Iraq. Initially we wanted to visit two sites, one in Abu Gharib and the other somewhere else. We were allowed to enter the second. But in Abu Gharib, there was confusion, as it is a huge place. We discovered four huge items of equipment concerning uranium there in 1991. We know that the Republican Guard is responsible for hiding the prohibited items and what we are looking for.

We identified four buildings which we wanted to inspect. But they took us to two small buildings on the other side of Abu Gharib. We had not planned to inspect them, so we demanded to enter the other buildings, but they refused. The problem was that when they refused to allow us to enter the buildings, we could not stay any longer because darkness had fallen. So we had no opportunity to stay to inspect the whole site, because

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it is huge and has many exits through which items can be smuggled out. This is why I issued my instructions to the inspectors to abandon the site. Of course, some Security Council members expressed discontent at our decision to abandon the site, but when we explained the situation, everyone agreed with our view.

The following day we went to another two sites. We were prevented from entering one and allowed to enter the other. The first site was smaller and it would have been easier to inspect. That was on Wednesday. Then the council adopted Resolution 1060.

The following day we stayed outside that site and tried to go to other sites, but we were prevented from doing so. We stayed around the site and then withdrew on Saturday.

[Matar] So you really were after Abu Gharib.

[Ekeus] Yes, I want to enter it immediately.

[Matar] Is it the most important one?

[Ekeus] I personally believe that it is the most important site because it is huge. However, the other sites involve important arrangements.

[Matar] What do you expect to find inside Abu Gharib?

[Ekeus] Prohibited materials, materials concerning missiles and nuclear substances, in addition to documents that will provide us with details about arms purchases and the Iraqis' claims about sites and materials they had said they destroyed in 1996 [as published]. This is the most important thing, because they say that they destroyed missiles and their launchers, in addition to chemical and nuclear substances, in 1991. There are also documents which they say they have destroyed. But this cannot be true, since we found numerous documents at Husayn Kamil's poultry farm which they had said they had destroyed. This is why we said at the time that they were misleading us.

And here they are saying that everything has disappeared. But we will find a great deal in this site.

[Matar] By the way, will you visit Husayn Kamil's tomb?

[Ekeus] (just smiled)

[Matar] Russia's representative asked you at the council where you take the documents you seize in Iraq, but you did not reply.

[Ekeus] I had no time to answer him, as there were more than 50 questions. The documents are in our offices, in this building or in the adjacent building. You can see them if you want to. We have sent some of them to France to be translated. I am fighting with the General Secretariat to find somewhere to put them. We have rented an apartment in a commercial building at the British Government's expense, and we have translators there. The French and the Germans are helping us. We asked some Arabs to help us, but they have not responded. We sought assistance from the U.S. Government, so they provided us with Arabs for Arabic translations.

[Matar] American Arabs?

[Ekeus] I believe they hold U.S. nationality. There are Arab students from the universities. But we want military experts familiar with technical phrases. I will ask the Russian ambassador when I meet with him to help us to store the documents.

[Matar] What do you expect to achieve during your visit?

[Ekeus] The aim is to look to the future, not just with regard to the formalities, but the essence as well. Two months have elapsed since the April report. Iraq is aware of the problems which were discussed at the council. We want to solve them and to examine what is hidden. We are concerned about some missiles, launchers, and chemical and other equipment.

[Matar] You said at one point that Iraq was finished as a strategic threat. Was your assessment erroneous? Is Iraq still a threat to the region?

[Ekeus] Yes. Maybe I was overoptimistic when I said that, because I thought we had seized all elements of the missile programs, which are the most dangerous armament elements. However, I still believe that Iraq is not in possession of a dangerous number of long- or medium-range missiles. But it was discovered after last August that Iraq had succeeded in achieving what we thought it could not achieve — manufacturing missile engines. As is known, we knew that the Soviet Union had sent 819 Scud missiles. We managed to list 818 missiles, which is why we said we had succeeded, as the remaining missile had probably been dismantled or fired as a test.

But we discovered later that they had manufactured a large number of engines. The Iraqis say that they had to get rid of a large number of these engines because of a manufacture defect. But we know that they succeeded in test-firing some of them and that they succeeded in manufacturing a considerable number of engines. They also succeeded in manufacturing other equipment. That concerned us, especially after we analyzed the information and concluded that they had not revealed all that was in their possession. This is why I have to be more cautious when I make an assessment. We are more concerned, but it is not a major threat.

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[Matar] But you say that it is still in possession of some missiles?

[Ekeus] Yes. This is why I believe that the region's states and other states will not respond unless we solve these problems.

[Matar] How can they have missiles and yet not pose a threat to the region?

[Ekeus] Yes, they have some missiles.

[Matar] Does Iraq pose a threat to the region first and foremost?

[Ekeus] Yes. Certainly it poses a threat to the region. They have six missiles and launchers for them, and maybe more. This number is enough to enable a state to pose a threat.

[Matar] What do you expect the Iraqis to submit to you, especially as the council did not deal with Tariq 'Aziz' message directly?

[Ekeus] The council dealt with it by saying in the president's statement that it "rejects Iraq's attempts to set conditions for the commission's inspection operations." That is a clear indication of the [council's] rejection of the Iraqi message.

[Matar] What will you request from it [Iraq]?

[Ekeus] I will request that it work to solve the remaining problems. We are willing to make a fundamental contribution in this connection by using all our capabilities to solve these problems.

[Matar] Will you stop sending inspection teams to Baghdad?

[Ekeus] No, we will not do that.

[Matar] Does that mean that Iraq has no option but to agree?

[Ekeus] That is clear in Resolution 1060 and in the 14 June statement.

[Matar] Will you agree to the presence of sensitive sites?

[Ekeus] We do not want any sensitive sites; we want the sites in which the banned materials are hidden.

[Matar] That is what the Iraqis consider sensitive.

[Ekeus] If the two matters clash, we have a problem.

[Matar] So what does "sensitive" mean?

[Ekeus] I cannot accept the claim that certain sites are sensitive, since Resolution 707 stipulates — and this is repeated in all resolutions and statements — that [the inspection teams] be allowed a full, immediate, and unconditional access to all sites. We have no exceptions. Iraq may say that some sites or some materials are sensitive, but this has been repeatedly rejected by the council.

[Matar] What is your interpretation of the word sensitive?

[Ekeus] Linked to national security.

[Matar] Which means?

[Ekeus] I do not know. I do not know whether that means the banned missiles or those they are trying to hide. I do not want to make my negotiations more difficult by talking to you about what I am going to discuss [with the Iraqis]. I want to solve these problems in the interests of both Iraq and the United Nations. There is no alternative.

[Matar] When Iraq was doing what it was doing some time ago, the United States was preparing to launch some missiles against Iraq. Can it be said that the failure to take military action means that Iraq will be able to say that it can obstruct matters as long as the sanctions are not going to be lifted, and that the Americans will not launch a military strike?

[Ekeus] I do not know. I cannot read the positions of the council's members. All I can read is the council's resolutions and statements, which are clear. The [president's] statement includes a clear measure, namely for me to visit Baghdad and submit a report immediately. The council will examine the issue again in the light of my report. This is an extremely important and sensitive mission. We will see what other steps will be taken. It is a gradual process.

[Matar] Is that a threat?

[Ekeus] I am optimistic and expect a good report. If Iraq behaves well, there will be no threats.

[Matar] So your visit to Baghdad is not in response to Iraq's invitation, but, rather, at the council's request.

[Ekeus] Actually it was I who asked to visit Iraq. That was during a conversation with Ambassador (Nizar) Hamdun (Iraq's representative to the United Nations). He agreed, the invitation was announced the following day, and I am pleased. But the important thing is to realize that it was my initiative, and then they invited me. I wanted to be invited, and I have been. The council knew that I wanted to visit Iraq and that Iraq had agreed and invited me, hence the reference to my visit in the president's statement.

[Matar] Have the Iraqis won this battle, as they have prevented the team from inspecting the sites, forced it to leave, and imposed on you a way of dealing with them?

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[Ekeus] We are in the middle of the process, and we have a strongly worded resolution and a statement from the president condemning Iraq, which means that Iraq has been harmed by its own actions. I do not believe that its policy is successful; it is a failure. The council is trying to find a solution through condemnation and through this mission. So we should wait and not consider what has happened a victory, since the process has not ended yet.

[Matar] But some people say that Iraq has accepted Resolution 986?

[Ekeus] As required by the United States, which wanted to have this resolution implemented.

[Matar] They both are agreed over this issue, and they will obtain $2 billion [reference to oil-for-food deal] — which means that the sanctions will not be lifted soon.

[Ekeus] Some members might think that the social conditions have improved as a result of the implementation of Resolution 986, but others might think that this represents an opportunity to start a process to help to lift the sanctions if Iraq believes that it is in its interests.

[Matar] Some might believe that it is an alternative to the lifting of the sanctions, otherwise why continue to cooperate with the spy Ekeus?

[Ekeus] (laughing) I am not a spy.

[Matar] You know what I mean.

[Ekeus] Yes. The present arrangement is that Iraq is not in the possession of resources which it can use immediately, but they will be able to use 25 or 20 percent of their output in order to rebuild their economy and some of their capabilities. But the continuation of the sanctions harms the country, and the Iraqis should consider this matter and realize that the sanctions should be lifted by implementing the council's resolutions.

[Matar] Will you try to meet with Saddam Husayn this time?

[Ekeus] No, I will not. I want to focus on this mission, and I hope I will be able to meet with the officials capable of implementation, especially as I am going on a Security Council mission.

Iraq: Talks With UN Special Commission Begin in Baghdad

JN1906192896 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Talks between Iraq and the UN Special Commission began at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz led the Iraqi side, and Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, led the UN delegation.

The talks were attended by Iraqi Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, minister of oil; Lieutenant General 'Amir al-Sa'di, adviser at the Presidency; Dayf 'Abd-al-Majid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO]; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary in the Foreign Ministry; and a number of Foreign Ministry and MIO experts.

Iraq: UNSC President Emphasizes Iraq's Conditions Not Accepted

MM2006074196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 96 pp 1,4

[Unattributed report: "Security Council President: We Reject Any Iraqi Conditions Regarding the Inspection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, the [UN] Security Council president and Egypt's representative, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that international envoy Rolf Ekeus will be traveling to Baghdad to convey "the Security Council's position rejecting any Iraqi conditions in two main areas. The first deals with the composition of the inspection teams, and the second with making some locations off limits to the international inspectors in Iraq."

Al-'Arabi added that he will meet next Monday [25 June] morning with Ekeus, upon his return from Baghdad, to ask about the outcome of his visit, in the hope that Baghdad will have backtracked on its rejection of the inspection teams and on the conditions it has imposed on their work. He will convey these positions to the council, in order to take appropriate measures.

Al-'Arabi said: "Before he left New York, I discussed with Ekeus the latest developments concerning the Special Commission's work following the withdrawal of the inspection teams from Baghdad. During our meeting, we stressed that his visit should make it clear that the Security Council does not accept the Iraqi conditions. The head of the Special Commission will be conveying to Baghdad the Security Council's clear position, as outlined in Resolution 1060 and in the presidential statement that we issued last Friday. [14 June] This position is the message that the Security Council is sending to Iraq."

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Iraq: Paper—Proposals on UN Inspection Represent 'Just' Stand

JN2006090396 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0651 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says Iraq's proposals on settling the crisis fabricated by the inspection teams represent the just and credible Iraqi stand. This stance refutes the lies, maneuvers, and provocative acts of some UN Special Commission members and the inspection teams.

In an article today, the paper adds: The aggression and blockade against Iraq revealed the Iraqi leadership's strong faith in the people's interests, the nation's dignity, and the march of its cultural awakening. The Iraqi leadership also demonstrated its ability to entrench an independent and free national will in the course of the raging conflict with the U.S. Satan and its henchmen.

AL-QADISIYAH says: The firm Iraqi stand of entrenching an independent political will to safeguard national security and sovereignty has foiled the tendentious ones' plan to inflict further harm on the Iraqi people.

The paper notes: The sound approach Iraq pursued in dealing with the aggression and the continuation of the blockade is the best example to be followed by the sons of the Arab nation in the new cultural development. This approach allows the Arab intellectuals to be aware of their role in resisting cultural estrangement that many Arab intellectuals have experienced. This will entrench the new Arab cultural structure to confront all forms of U.S. hegemony.

Iraq: Ekeus Said Acting Under 'Poisoned Influence' of U.S.

JN1906204996 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1754 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brothers in Arabism: The Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published a statement by UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus timed to coincide with his arrival in Baghdad today, Wednesday. [19 June]

Ekeus literally said: Iraq definitely poses a strategic threat to the region. The Iraqis have six missiles and launching pads, and they may have more. This number is sufficient for any state to pose a threat. Ekeus said this, despite the fact that he is leading a technical mission that should have nothing to do with politics.

Ekeus sees the six alleged Iraqi missiles as a strategic threat to the region. But he, along with his masters in the White House, which is swimming in the blood of the Iraqis, Arabs, and other people, do not see the more than 200 nuclear warheads possessed by the Zionist entity as any strategic threat to regional security — despite the fact that these 200 nuclear warheads are a well-recognized fact, whereas the six alleged Iraqi missiles are mere speculations.

Even if, for the sake of argument, we suppose that there are six long-range or short-range Iraqi missiles, then to which party will these missiles pose a strategic threat? Will they threaten the Arab nation, the Muslims, Russia, the United States, France, China, Britain, Germany, or [word indistinct]?

Or does Ekeus really want to say that these alleged missiles threaten the Zionist entity, which does not pose a threat to the region despite the fact that it possesses more than 200 nuclear warheads?

Ekeus' logic is totally reversed and is an exact copy of the U.S. double standard. Worse yet is the fact that Ekeus issues judgments based on misconceptions, assumptions, and doubts that are basically derived from the [word indistinct] and fabricated reports by U.S. intelligence and the Zionist Mosad.

The UN teams have inspected numerous sites in the past 149 inspection visit, using the same pretexts. They have always emerged frustrated because they have not found any missiles, any atomic bombs, any poisonous material, or any documents on the banned Iraqi arms.

We contend that Ekeus is behaving as if he were the U.S. secretary of state or secretary of defense or the Zionist entity's foreign minister or defense minister. He was given the opportunity to make false statements and inspections by a Security Council resolution. Ekeus, however, is acting under the poisoned influence of the United States.

Iraq: Opposition Radio Reports Killing of Ba'th Party Official

JN1906161596 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The criminal 'Imran 'Ali was killed by the heroic mujahidin in the al-Nasiriyah Governorate on 9 June.

Our sources said that the mujahidin ambushed this criminal near the al-Nasiriyah Governorate Traffic Directorate at 0700 on 9 June. They added that the criminal 'Imran 'Ali died instantly after being hit by many bullets.

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Our sources said that panic and anxiety prevailed at the Ba'th Party headquarters in the governorate capital after the criminal was killed. The criminal was member of the al-Nasiriyah Branch Command and secretary of the al-Nu'man Group.

The sources said that the citizens expressed joy and relief after the death of terrorist 'Imran, who was the second man in the Ba'th Party command in the governorate to be killed in two months. The criminal (Futayyih 'Itrish), secretary of the al-Shatrah Branch, was also killed by the mujahidin.

Iraq: Ba'th Official Reportedly Dies in 'Regrettable Incident'

JN1906192396 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, sent comrade 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun, member of the Ba'th Party Iraq Command and official in charge of the Ba'th Party organizations in the al-Basrah and Dhi Qar Governorates, to represent his excellency at the Koranic recitations for the soul of late comrade [word indistinct] Sultan, member of the Ba'th Party's al-Basrah Branch Command, who died in a regrettable incident.

Leader President Saddam Husayn's representative conveyed his excellency's condolences to the family and kinsfolk of the deceased, and also to his tribesmen, who voiced their thanks and gratitude for his excellency's kind care for his people. They also prayed to the Almighty God to grant his excellency a long life and keep him as an asset for the Iraqis.

Iraq: 7 Reportedly Killed in Kurdish Clashes in Northern Iraq

NC1906202596 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 18 Jun 96 p 17

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been reported that seven people have been killed and 17 others wounded in a clash between the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], which is headed by Mas'ud Barzani, and the Conservative Party of Iraqi Kurdistan [CPIK]. The CPIK is based in the town of Spilik and the majority of its members are from the Surchi Tribe. The DPK has claimed that the members of the CPIK, which is not an influential party in the region, are engaged in espionage activities, laying mines on the roads, and fanning hostilities.

It has been reported that CPIK leader 'Umar Surchi has lost his brother, Husayn Surchi, in the clashes. Meanwhile, Nejat Surchi has claimed that Barzani's peshmergas have attacked and destroyed a Surchi village, Kalakin.

Shazad Saib, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan representative in Ankara, has said that they are closely following the incidents between the DPK and the CPIK. He also said: "The DPK wants to place the area under its control. It does not want anyone or any organization to stand against it."

Iraq: DPK's Barzani Interviewed

NC1906210396 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 16 Jun 96 p 10

["Text" of interview with Democratic Party of Kurdistan leader Mas'ud Barzani by HURRIYET correspondent Fatih Altayli in Salah-al-Din, Iraq; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Altayli] The Turkish public is highly concerned about the oil pipeline that crosses your territory. The pipeline's security is of vital importance to Turkey. Turkish intelligence units are reported to have established that Greece has instructed the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] to sabotage it. Will you be able to guarantee its security?

[Barzani] We will protect the section of the pipeline that crosses our territory. We have the strength to do so. However, I am unable to say anything on the sections in other areas. For example, I cannot predict what may happen in the areas that are controlled by Turkey and Iraq.

[Altayli] How will you react if the PKK attacks the section of the pipeline in your territory?

[Barzani] That would create a clash. The two sides will fight. However, the PKK will not attack the pipeline, which inspires hope in the people. So, the PKK will not dare to attack it. It will receive a deserved lesson if it does so.

[Altayli] You fought with the PKK two years ago. Many people were killed. However, the two sides now seem to have reached a reconciliation. Can you explain why the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the PKK have agreed to coexist in peace?

[Barzani] The PKK started the war at the time. However, it realized that fighting a war was wrong. So, it decided to end the clashes. We, too, decided to end the fighting. We will not take action against anyone who does not harm us.

[Altayli] It is widely believed in Turkey that you have decided to allow the PKK militants to settle in the

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northern part of your territory, which is adjacent to Turkey.

[Barzani] Turkey has always blamed other countries when it sought an excuse for its failure to deal with the PKK. That is wrong. Our common border is 300 km long. It is a mountainous area and difficult to control. It is not easy to control it. Why has Turkey been unable to control its own border? Why has it been unable to establish border security in Van, Diyarbakir, and Hatay? It has a large army. Why has it failed to protect its border?

Friendly Relations With Syria

[Altayli] Tehran seems to have recently increased its weight in the region. Can you comment on your relations with Iran?

[Barzani] We have three neighbors. Meanwhile, we also have Iraq at our back. Undoubtedly, it wants to destroy us. We want to maintain balanced relations with all our neighbors. We do not want to depend on only one of our neighbors. That may create a problem in the future.

[Altayli] Does that also apply to Syria?

[Barzani] Yes, it does.

[Altayli] Can you comment on the approach you may adopt if the regime in Iraq changes? In other words, if a more democratic administration comes to power or if Saddam Husayn is ousted.

[Barzani] We will try to find a peaceful solution if democracy is established in Iraq.

[Altayli] Do you support the establishment of an independent Kurdistan or would you prefer to have an autonomous Kurdistan within Iraq?

[Barzani] Iraq has already asked us to state our conditions. The problem has to be resolved. We have considered how the Kurdish Parliament can join the Iraqi Parliament. Our relations should be at the federal level. We are not opposed to that.

[Altayli] Kurds are carrying out activities to achieve independence in several countries. Can you comment on their behavior? Do you believe that their activities are justified? Do you plan to cooperate with them?

[Barzani] Your approach reflects the way Turkey looks at the matter. Ankara blames all the Kurds for the activities of a single person in Syria or Iran. We have our own objectives. They are the objectives of all Kurds. As far as the Kurdish people's rights are concerned, we are opposed to violence. We do not believe that problems can be resolved through acts of violence. Problems should be resolved through dialogues and understanding. However, we also are opposed to acts of terrorism against the Kurds.

[Altayli] The DPK and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] are the two influential parties in Iraqi Kurdistan. The PKK has moved to use northern Iraq. Could it grow to become the third influential party in your area?

[Barzani] No, that will be impossible.

The PKK's Place Is Different

[Altayli] Is the PKK not a Kurdish party?

[Barzani] Yes, it is. However, its place is different. Can the DPK in northern Iraq become a political party in Turkey?

[Altayli] No...

[Barzani] That could happen if Kurdistan is recognized in the future and if a political party comes to power either by itself or with the support of the other political parties. However, that is impossible at the present time. Each political party has its own views and territory.

[Altayli] What do you mean when you say if Kurdistan is recognized? Was that a reference to the establishment of a Kurdish state that will be made up of various areas in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria?

[Barzani] That can be achieved if you agree to the existence of an independent Kurdish people. In other words, the existence of legal and equal parties on both sides of the border. However, none of the countries in the region will agree to that. A Kurdish Government can be established only by equal and legal parties.

[Altayli] You have always talked about independent Kurdistan. Do you have the economic strength you need to maintain such a state?

[Barzani] Yes, we do. However, we have to be allowed to establish a state. Our territory is rich with oil but we are unable to extract it. We can reach an agreement with a foreign oil company if we are allowed to do so by Turkey and the UN. However, they will not allow that. Turkey will not agree to it.

[Altayli] What is Kurdistan's income per capita?

[Barzani] Do you mean in Iraqi Kurdistan?

[Altayli] Yes.

[Barzani] We do not have statistical information on that. We are in the process of restructuring and modernizing our community. We will acquire the information when the process is completed.

[Altayli] Can you comment on your imports and exports?

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[Barzani] Very limited.

[Altayli] Many foreigners visit your territory. What do they do? Do they work to improve Iraqi Kurdistan?

[Barzani] I believe that you are talking about the Civilian Community Organizations [Sivil Toplum Orgutleri]. Some of them work for Kurdistan. They contribute to many of our projects. Many of the others create problems.

[Altayli] Why do you not get rid of those who create problems?

[Barzani] That is not our policy at the present time. We may do so in the future.

Relations With Talabani

[Altayli] Can you comment on your relations with Turkey? Has Turkey met your expectations?

[Barzani] We have to maintain favorable relations with Turkey. We do not want to create a problem. Nevertheless, problems exist between the two sides. Turkey conveyed a message to us when the PKK attacked our guard posts. It said: "We are ready to support the DPK. However, the aid you will receive must not be used against PUK leader Jalal Talabani." That is the kind of relations we have with Turkey.

[Altayli] Can you comment on your relations with Talabani? Do you still have problems?

[Barzani] We have only one problem with Talabani.

[Altayli] What is that?

[Barzani] The DPK is Talabani's most important problem. He wants to destroy the DPK. However, he will not be able to achieve his objective.

[Altayli] Why does he want to destroy the DPK?

[Barzani] He wants to become a dictator.

[Altayli] Does he have a similar opinion about you?

[Barzani] What do you mean?

[Altayli] Well, you want to destroy the PUK?

[Barzani] We are the majority community. We do not have a problem. We have to share power. We do not have any other objective. We cannot continue to live in a divided way. We want to resolve the problem in a civilized way. We want to resolve the problem through elections, not through acts of violence.

[Altayli] The PKK's relations with Talabani are more favorable. Do you believe that he may use the PKK against you in the future?

[Barzani] Yes, I do. In fact, the PKK has been used against us in the past. Jalal Talabani was responsible for that. The PKK was convinced that we would be finished in a short time. That has not been the case.

Borders Are Abnormal

[Altayli] Your relations with Syria are gradually improving. However, the United States, which protects you, has described Syria as a terrorist country. You have held talks with Jalal Talabani in Dublin under U.S. auspices. All that seems confusing.

[Barzani] As far as we are concerned, it is not. That is because we do not play our cards in accordance with U.S. interests. Meanwhile, we will not agree to be a part of any country's designs. Our relations with Syria date back to 1971. We have been friends with Hafiz al-Asad for 30 years. If the United States has designs against Syria, then that concerns only Damascus! Likewise, if Syria has designs on Turkey, then that concerns only Ankara!

[Altayli] Can you outline your views on the Hammer Force?

[Barzani] Its continued presence in the region will be in the interest of all the parties concerned. We all stand to lose if it leaves.

[Altayli] Can you comment on the problem that may be created by the withdrawal of the Hammer Force? Would Saddam Husayn attack you?

[Barzani] The balances and security will be completely distrupted, not only in Iraq but also in the entire region.

[Altayli] Turkey will not allow the Hammer Force to remain in the region for a long time. In fact, its mandate may not be extended.

[Barzani] The United States has other options. No country stands to lose more than Turkey does from the Hammer Force's withdrawal, that is, if Turkey opposes its continued presence. The withdrawal of the force will harm Turkey's security and its activities in the region.

[Altayli] Can you comment on the status of the borders in the region? Will they remain as they are for the next 10 years? Do you believe that they should remain as they are?

[Barzani] The world is changing and everything that is abnormal is being normalized.

[Altayli] Can you comment on the borders in the Middle East?

[Barzani] Of course, they are abnormal.

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[Altayli] I have another question on the oil pipeline. Are you satisfied with the share you will receive from the profits that will be made from it?

[Barzani] According to the agreement between the UN and the Iraqi Government, Kurdistan will receive an appropriate share. Compared with Iraq's share, the allocation that will be made for Kurdistan will create an opportunity for the improvement of the living standard in our area.

[Altayli] How will the funds be shared in Iraqi Kurdistan? Will the DPK and the PUK share it among themselves?

[Barzani] The funds belong to the Kurds, not the parties. We will use them to improve the living standards. They will be used with the UN's approval for the realization of various projects.

Turkey's Policy

[Altayli] Do you expect to improve your relations with Turkey?

[Barzani] Turkey must adopt decisive policies. It must inform us of what it wants from us and what it is prepared to give to us. That is essential. It will allow the two sides to plan for the future. However, Turkey does not seem to have a clear policy. The Turkish officials have not been able to draw up such a policy. They frequently change their approach. They do not have a policy toward us. What is more important, Turkey does not have a central decision-making mechanism.

[Altayli] What do you expect from Turkey?

[Barzani] We want friendly relations, cooperation, and trade between the two sides. We want the crossings at the Habur border gate to be increased. We do not want Turkey's security to be harmed. Meanwhile, we do not want our villages to be bombed.

[Altayli] You have always claimed that Turkish military planes attack civilian targets in your area.

[Barzani] Yes, that is right. People have been killed. Many people have lost their houses. They were destroyed. The PKK has been used as an excuse. However, PKK militants were not in the areas that were attacked. Innocent people were killed.

[Altayli] What would you do if Turkey asked you to inform it of the location of the PKK camps so that the attacks on civilian targets could be avoided?

[Barzani] We cannot spy against anyone. The Turkish military forces have spies in the PKK and the PKK has spies in the Turkish military forces. The Turkish military forces are well aware of the locations of the PKK camps. In fact, they are more aware of their locations than I am. Meanwhile, the PKK is well aware of what the Turkish military forces plan to do.

[Altayli] If that is the case, then why are civilian targets bombed?

[Barzani] That is exactly what I have asked Turkey. "Why are you bombing civilian targets?" You, too, must ask that question to the Turkish Government.

[Altayli] Do you believe that Turkey can be divided?

[Barzani] Kurdish people live in Turkey. Their existence must not be denied. A democratic and peaceful solution has to be found. That is up to the Turkish and Kurdish peoples.

[Altayli] Several politicians in Turkey have claimed that Turkey should take control of Iraqi Kurdistan. Can that be possible?

[Barzani] Saying that is easy. However, doing it is difficult.

[Altayli] Would you oppose or support the idea?

[Barzani] The argument does not have a legal basis.

[Altayli] How long can you maintain your present status? The Hammer Force cannot remain in the region indefinitely. Iraq will call for the normalization of the situation at some point.

[Barzani] We are searching for a political solution. No one has guaranteed that our existence will be accepted if the Hammer Force remains in the area. The problem has existed for 100 years. We have fought to maintain our Kurdish identity. We live away from the cities. We live away from civilization. Nevertheless, we will continue to exist. A different solution will be found if the Hammer Force withdraws from the region. However, a political agreement will have to be found. That will be the final solution.

[Altayli] Can we say that a solution can be found if Saddam Husayn is ousted?

[Barzani] We are in a position to know who wants to resolve the Kurdish problem. We do not have anything to do with individuals.

[Altayli] Do you mean to say that you may reach an agreement even with Saddam Husayn?

[Barzani] Why not, provided he agrees to change his approach and policy and decides not to fight with the Kurds.

[Altayli] How would you react if Saddam Husayn urges you to reach an agreement?

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[Barzani] I visited Baghdad to reach an agreement in the past. Deciding to do so was very difficult. However, I can visit Baghdad again if talks are held on the Kurdish people's future.

Iraq: Saddam's Fedayeen Calls For Recruits

JN1906193896 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Unscheduled announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily those who plight their fealty to thee do not less than plight their fealty to God. The hand of God is over their hands. [Koranic verse]

The commission in charge of Saddam's Fedayeen invites the sons of great Iraq, the sons of leader mujahid Saddam Husayn, may God protect and guide him, who want to volunteer for Saddam's Fedayeen Force—whose members have their love for the leader of their homeland etched in their hearts, and which has become one of the trenchant swords the leader brandishes to protect great Iraq's security and sovereignty—to contact the Ba'th Party branch headquarters in Baghdad and the other governorates. The last day volunteers will be accepted is 1 July.

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Israel: Netanyahu Opens First Cabinet Session

TA1906114796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Statement by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to the first session of his new cabinet at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the first session of the cabinet, I wish to thank the outgoing cabinet and the outgoing prime minister and ministers, who during the past four years toiled for the welfare of the State of Israel in their own ways and to the best of their abilities, and handed us in trust a precious asset, to run the affairs of state.

On this occasion, I recall what our forefathers said Moshe told the 70 wise men whom he convened to work alongside him: Do not think I give you unlimited power; I give you slavery.

That is perhaps the starting point of this government. We are here to serve the people. We do not hold unbridled power, but the instruments to serve the State of Israel, and may I add, the entire Jewish people. Our task is therefore two-fold. I also know there are people sitting around this table who each in their own way represent a different sector of the people of Israel; together I believe we will be able to serve all the people. This government is different from previous governments in several ways, but first of all because of the new law that gives the prime minister additional, more encompassing powers. I also believe there is something of great importance we must make clear from the outset: We will have many tasks and many difficulties along the path we will be traveling, but we will ignore all narrow considerations — party, sectoral, and personal — and work together as one man in order to bring good fortune and hope to the people of Israel.

I would like to wish this government success, not because we are interested in personal honor, but because our success is the success of the State of Israel and of the Jewish people, and that is our mission.

Israel: National Security Team Set Up at First Cabinet Session

TA1906151796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In its first session, the new cabinet decided to set up a national security team, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu suggested that Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri head it. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay was surprised by the idea of giving 'Ivri the post. Netanyahu and Mordekhay will now coordinate the date for 'Ivri to leave the Defense Ministry.

The cabinet also appointed an advisory council for economic policy, headed by Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel whose tenure has been extended for another term. The cabinet also decided to form ministerial committees, including a committee for the privatization of government-owned companies. Governor Frenkel will be a member of that committee. The prime minister said he intends to amend the Companies Law so that state authorities could be privatized as well.

The cabinet approved the appointment of Knesset Member Me'ir Porush as deputy construction and housing minister. Porush will practically control this ministry [that is headed by Netanyahu]. It was further reported from the cabinet session that the prime minister will be in charge of implementing the Broadcasting Authority Law.

The cabinet decided that from now on, its sessions will be held on Fridays, not on Sundays as was the habit over past several decades. Netanyahu explained the change saying that it will enable the ministers to work full days all week long.

The cabinet also decided to appoint Cabinet Secretary Shmu'el Hollander as civil service commissioner. Supreme Court Justice Gavri'el Bach, however, this afternoon issued an interim injunction banning the firing of current commissioner Yitzhaq Galnur. The injunction was given upon the request of the Movement for Government Quality. Movement representative Attorney Eli'ad Shraga claims that firing Galnur will constitute a violation of public service ethics because the commissioner is not a political figure; just the opposite — it is his job to prevent the civil service from becoming a political body.

Shraga claims that the intention to fire Galnur follows from his work with the committee that examines the eligibility of candidates to senior civil service posts. Yesterday this committee examined Avigdor Lieberman's eligibility to be the Prime Minister's Office director general. According to Shraga, there was a problem with the appointment because Lieberman has a violent record dating back to his university days. There is a fear, the attorney says, that ousting Galnur at this stage is meant to pave the way for improper appointments.

[A similar report by Udi Segal on Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 1400 GMT on 19 June adds that the cabinet decided today on additional appointments: "Dani Nave was appointed cabinet secretary; Pini Fischler, a new name, will be director of Netanyahu's bureau; David Bar-Ilan was appointed head of the policy and communications

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department; Shay Bazaq is media adviser; and Shmu'el Kohen, special adviser and liaison between Netanyahu's bureau and the Knesset and the party."

["The cabinet also approved a first trip abroad by a cabinet minister — Transportation Minister Yitzhaq Levi will travel to Amman" on 23 June.]

Israel: Netanyahu Holds Consultations on Political Issues

TA2006145196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister will soon call for a special discussion on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron with the participation of the defense minister and other defense officials. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that this morning's deliberations at Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's bureau were chiefly devoted to political issues since it was held prior to the Arab summit meeting in Cairo and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Israel next week.

[Raz] There were many telephone calls between the defense minister's office in Tel Aviv and the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem. The new defense minister was highly displeased that he was not participating in a political discussion that had defense perspectives until the prime minister's bureau issued a statement that summed up the session by saying that the meeting focused on a political survey and an update on the state of the political process in the region. The briefing was given by the political adviser and the cabinet secretary. The meeting also heard a report on the upcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, as well as the Arab summit meeting.

The statement said that a separate debate on Hebron will be held in the near future, but no date was fixed. The prime minister's bureau added orally that a political-security debate will be held soon with the participation of the defense minister and the defense establishment.

Today's meeting dealt with all the issues on the agenda between Israel and the Palestinian Authority: the closure on the territories, the operation of the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho, Rafah airport, and the release of Palestinian prisoners. It, of course, surveyed the Savir-Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] agreement on the evacuation of Hebron, as well as the deadlocked negotiations with Syria. Christopher will want a report on all these issues.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay, who was not present at the Jerusalem meeting, held his own consultations with the chief of staff and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] top brass.

Those present at the prime minister's consultations included Foreign Minister David Levi and Finance Minister Dan Meridor. Why was Meridor invited, I asked the prime minister's bureau. He has a great deal of experience, they replied, but it definitely highlights Meridor's status despite his cool personal relations with Netanyahu.

Israel: New Cabinet Ministers Comment at Power Handover Ceremonies

TA1906124796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Levi, the new minister of transportation and energy, said in a ceremony at the Transportation Ministry that he has no intention of ceding departments in the ministries under his jurisdiction to Mr. Sharon because this is not in the public interest. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that Levi first bid farewell to outgoing Energy Minister Gonen Segev and then to outgoing Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar. The latter pleaded with him not to cede any department in the Transportation Ministry.

Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan announced that if the Water Commission is transferred to Ari'el Sharon, as the latter demanded, he would not stay in the government. Speaking to our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i, Eytan said the Water Commission would not be transferred to the newly-established ministry. He was speaking at a ceremony held at the Agriculture Ministry in Tel Aviv.

Dan Meridor, the new finance minister, said the most urgent mission he sees ahead of him is dealing with the budget deficit, the deficit in the balance of payments, and soaring inflation. This will call for a big slash in government expenditures and, consequently, in the scope and level of public services. Nevertheless, Meridor promised to try not to hurt the low-income strata. Outgoing Finance Minister Avraham Shohat stated that the Bank of Israel had lost its political neutrality and that it could no longer be said that it was free of political considerations. This was evident in the coalition negotiations, he said, and the economic establishment in Israel will now face a new reality.

Avigdor Qahalani, the new minister of internal security, said that by and large he intends to adopt the separation plan drafted by his predecessor, Moshe Shahal. The plan involves building a fence and gates at several sites, and checking all people passing through them. Qahalani was speaking at a ceremony during which he was handed the Internal Security Ministry by Moshe Shahal.

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Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the new defense minister, promised to continue strengthening the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security branches since they guarantee peace. In a ceremony at the Defense Ministry, Minister Mordekhay raised the memory of Yitzhaq Rabin saying he mourns Rabin's death and will do everything so that such a murder will never recur. Mordekhay addressed himself to Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, telling him Israel has a strong army and an excellent chief of staff.

Yuliy Edelstein, the new immigrant absorption minister, asserted that he plans not just to deal with the technical absorption of immigrants but also to see to their social absorption and employment. He was speaking at the ceremony in which Ya'ir Tzaban handed over the ministry. The latter said the appointment of an aliyah activist as minister of immigrant absorption is of special importance.

Zvulun Hammer, the new education minister, announced he will enhance the study of Judaism and the humanities and will not reduce schooling in science. He promised to make an effort to maintain the Education Ministry's large budget. Our correspondent Ya'el Ben- Yehuda reports that outgoing Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein called on Hammer to make sure to maintain a relationship between state and religious education.

Eliyahu Yishay, the labor and welfare minister, promised to enhance the enforcement of the law banning work on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays and try to reduce the employment of foreign workers. He was speaking at the handover ceremony of his ministry, at the end of which he left with his colleagues to pray at the Western Wall.

Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, the outgoing construction minister, handed over the ministry to Prime Minister Netanyahu. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that Ben-Eli'ezer suggested that Netanyahu hold on to the Construction Ministry because it is a very important arm of government for solving social problems. The ministry will be run by Deputy Construction Minister Me'ir Porush of United Torah Jewry.

Science Ministry workers cheerfully greeted their new minister, Binyamin Begin. The latter asked all workers to remain in their jobs, and emphasized that he had not brought along his own staff. Director General Tzvi Yanai, who was appointed by outgoing Minister Shulamit Aloni, told our correspondent he would favorably consider remaining in his job.

Two new ministers, Limor Livnat and Tzahi Hanegbi, abstained from announcing their plans, saying they would first learn the work of their ministries.

Israel: Newspaper Profiles New Netanyahu Aides

TA2006094096

[FBIS Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 20 June carries a 600-word report by Aluf Ben on page A2 that includes brief biographies of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's new aides.

Cabinet Secretary Dani Nave, "36, is a lawyer. He served as adviser to Moshe Arens when he was foreign and defense minister." Over the past four years, he worked for Yitzhaq Teshuva's construction firm, was foreign news editor for HA'ARETZ, and was head of the Sick Fund procurement department.

David Fischler, 41, director general of Netanyahu's bureau, served as an officer in the Israel Police Fraud Department and over the past several years was the director of several private companies that produce food, toys, and electronic appliances.

David Bar-Ilan, head of the policy and communication department, is chief editor of THE JERUSALEM POST. "He is a renowned pianist, born in Israel, and studied and lived in the United States for many years, where he met Netanyahu and headed the Jonathan Institute against terror." He is "closely associated with conservative Jewish leadership circles in the United States."

Another new face on Netanyahu's team is Shmu'el Kohen, 38. He will be liaison with the Knesset, the Likud, and the public. Kohen had served as personal adviser to Ari'el Sharon, and over the past several years worked as Netanyahu's personal assistant.

Israel: Levi 'Expects' Cairo Summit To Issue 'Warm Message'

TA1906133496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Incoming Foreign Minister David Levi today called on the Arab countries meeting for the Cairo summit to diffuse the tension, saying that there is no reason to hold an emergency conference because Israel wants peace and its government will do everything it can to create an atmosphere to promote peace. Speaking at the handover ceremony at the Foreign Ministry, Minister Levi said he expects those meeting in Cairo to send a warm message to the State of Israel so we can work together. Peace is dear and important to us all, and it is in the interests of every country in the region, Minister Levi stressed.

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Israel: Levi Terms 'Arafat 'Partner,' Seeks 'Middle' With Syria

TA2006092496 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Arab leaders at the Cairo summit this weekend should not increase "unnecessary" tensions, but rather seek ways of cooperating with the new government, Foreign Minister David Levi said yesterday.

But as he began his tenure, tough statements from the Arab world escalated in reaction to the government's guidelines.

"The tension which they are trying to produce is unnecessary, completely unnecessary," Levi told reporters after he and his predecessor, Ehud Baraq, spoke at the changeover ceremony at the Foreign Ministry. "I expect to hear from this summit, which is due to take place in the coming days, a message of peace, a warm hand towards the State of Israel so that we will be able to work together."

Levi's statements are differed, at least in tone, from those of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Speaking of Syria, he said: "If both sides want peace — and we want peace — we'll meet in the middle."

Asked if he would meet Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat, he called him Israel's "partner" and said he does not rule out anything.

"We said there's a partner. We didn't create him; he's a fact on the ground. We're interested in conducting the dialogue with him on continuing the peace process on the condition that he keeps his commitments."

'Arafat was one of the few Arab leaders not mentioned by Netanyahu during his inaugural Knesset speech on Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Israel: Levi Appointment Said Improper; Court Approves Ne'eman Post

TA1906175296 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Knesset legal adviser stated today that David Levi's appointment as cabinet minister was not conducted properly. Following an appeal by Labor Knesset Member Hagay Merom, it has been decided that the Knesset will debate and vote on the appointment.

The High Court of Justice today approved the appointment of Ya'aqov Ne'eman as justice minister, not before it criticized the fact that he assumed office the same day a police probe against him started. [passage omitted]

Israel: Labor Claims Elections Fraud, Demands New Elections

TA1906174996 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Gadi Sukenik video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This afternoon, the Labor Party appealed to the courts asking that they determine that the elections for the Knesset and the prime minister were not conducted legally, and that they should be canceled and new elections be held. Labor made the move after examining a sample of ballot boxes which, the party claims, led to suspicions that there was confusion in the vote count.

At least one elections observer, a member of a right-wing party, claimed this evening that attempts were made to tamper with the vote count to spoil it for Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik has the details:

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] The legal suit was filed this afternoon with the Jerusalem District Court by Labor Party five minutes before the time limit expired. It was filed by Ra'anan Kohen, head of the Labor Knesset faction and deputy chairman of the Central Elections Committee. [passage omitted]

A sample of 57 ballot boxes was examined by Labor members who found that 432 voters were abroad on election day and two died before the election day. Calculated on a nationwide basis, this means that there were more than 42,000 illegal votes, before other areas are examined. [passage omitted]

Among other things, Labor heard the testimony of someone who claimed he had served as an elections observer for Moledet. He was in a bad economic situation and decided to harm Peres, but changed his mind. [passage omitted]

Labor concludes that Peres lost the premiership because there was large-scale fraud and irregularities occurred at many voting stations, claiming new elections should be held. [end recording]

Moledet Chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi said in response that in no way does this affair indicate that Moledet as a party initiated such a move, and that he too has information that Moledet was affected by elections fraud.

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Israel: Likud Opposition to Netanyahu Disbands

TA1906180896 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Dan Scemama studio report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last night there was great anger among the Likud back benchers. They saw how the chairmanships of Knesset committees have almost all been given out, leaving the Likud with only two important committees. The cabinet portfolios were nearly all handed over to the coalition partners, and the Likud members were left with very few jobs and a lot of anger.

At first they considered not showing up for last night's vote, and some actually did not show up. Others, and I cannot say who they were, started organizing and a new idea came up: Let's vote against the new government and ask Ari'el Sharon to head the group that will be an opposition to Netanyahu. The Knesset vote will make Netanyahu's cabinet fall, which means new elections in 60 days. Sharon immediately rejected the move, leaving a group of Likud Knesset members who still entertained the idea.

Then they thought that if they vote against Netanyahu, Labor might immediately step in, join Netanyahu in a national unity government, and leave them out. Then the organization disbanded. This drama behind the scenes lasted two hours yesterday and then vanished. [passage omitted]

Israel: Lieberman Queried on 'Eligibility' for PM's Office Post

TA1906094096 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jun 96 p 23

[Report by Nahum Barne'a]

[FBIS Translated Text] The committee investigating the eligibility of the candidates for senior civil service positions yesterday questioned Ivet Lieberman, candidate for director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

The inquiry was held in the wake of the Shin's Bet's security check of 38-year-old Lieberman, which apparently did not come up with incriminating findings.

The committee questioned Lieberman about alleged rioting and violent behavior when he was a student at Tel Aviv University and active in the right-wing students' association. The three-member committee also wanted to know why Lieberman had decided to give up his effort to join the foreign service, and wondered whether it was linked to the fact that he had learned that he would have had to undergo a security investigation.

In an interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night, Lieberman denied all the accusations. He said that he was active in the right-wing students' association and that although many members of the association had faced criminal or disciplinary charges he was never charged with anything. "When the commissioner put the questions to me I was in shock. I am lucky I was not asked whether I am a KGB agent."

Lieberman denied a rumor disseminated yesterday that in his first year in Israel he was active in the racist Kakh movement. "It is a total lie," he said.

Israel: Internal Security Minister Qahalani Favors Divide Fence

TA2006093996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Internal Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani toured the divide line in the Sharon area this morning and said he favors the construction of an electronic separation fence there. The fence, he said, will allow the maintaining of neighborly relations, provide protection against terrorists, and help monitor persons who enter Israel. The previous government, he said, approved the construction of 11 km of fence in the Sharon area, and he intends to convince the new government to continue separating the two peoples by that means.

Speaking to our correspondent Yafa Glick, Qahalani said that he chose to start his first working day with a tour of the divide line because he believes it is very important to look after the security of all citizens.

[In a similar report by Yafa Glick on Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0905 GMT on 20 June, Qahalani is cited as saying that he opposes the closure in its current shape.]

Israel: Government Formation 'Fiasco' Viewed as 'Inauspicious'

TA1906103396 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jun 96 p 6

[Editorial: "A Disappointing Start"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It was difficult to view yesterday's changing of the guard at the Knesset with any sense of elation. Neither the new government nor the opposition seemed able to live up to the solemnity and significance of the moment, and both seemed intent on exposing the least attractive aspects of Israeli politics: disunity, pettiness, empty rhetoric, and vindictiveness.

In his haste to put a coalition together and take over the reins of government, newly installed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu caused an internal crisis in the

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Likud, which made his first steps in power seem inauspicious. That he could not find a respectable place in his government for MK [Knesset member] Ari'el Sharon, who had rallied a fractious "national camp" behind Netanyahu's leadership when the chances of victory seemed remote, points to a woeful miscalculation.

Not surprisingly, his choice for foreign minister, David Levi, used the opportunity to draw attention to himself. With characteristic petulance, he declined to attend the Knesset session and be introduced as a member of the new government unless a place could immediately be found for Sharon. As a result, Netanyahu had to keep the foreign portfolio to himself, until Levi would see fit to accept it.

It was a humiliating spectacle for a government which had promised to be an efficient, "can do" administration. The Likud, which had managed to overcome its chronic unruliness for the duration of the election campaign, seemed to be reverting to its wayward norms.

Nor had the Labor Party, now in opposition, changed its ways. Former prime minister Shim'on Peres, perhaps attempting to show that he possesses the vigor and feistiness expected of an opposition leader, delivered a shrill, combative address, which sounded more like a stump speech than a thoughtful response to Netanyahu's appeal for domestic unity and unprecedented call for peace and reconciliation with the world of Islam.

Peres repeated all the tired, questionable shibboleths of the campaign. Again, the public was treated to what former president George Bush derisively described as "the vision thing." Only people of little faith, Peres averred, fail to see that the region is ready for an historic reconciliation, for peace with Israel in exchange for land, and for replacing political, territorial, and military ambitions with aspirations for economic betterment.

But what was perhaps most riling about Peres' speech was his demand that the incoming government honor its predecessor's "international commitments" by withdrawing from Hebron. The fact is that it was the Labor government which violated the Oslo agreement by refusing to leave Hebron after the suicide bombing outrages of February and March. It was an eminently reasonable refusal. Hebron is a hotbed of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activity. It has sheltered some of the most notorious terrorists, most recently Hasan Salamah, the second most wanted Hamas operative, nabbed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] at a Hebron roadblock. To surrender Hebron is to award the Islamist terrorist organizations their most coveted prize, and provide them a launching pad for a terror campaign against Israel.

In fact, it was Peres himself who said the army would not move out of Hebron until the most wanted Hamas terrorist, Muhammad Dayf, is apprehended. But only a few days ago, the Palestinian Authority announced that Dayf had escaped from Gaza, where he had miraculously managed to hide for three months after the bus bombings. It would, then, be reckless for Israel to withdraw from Hebron according to the former government's redeployment plan, and it is irresponsible of the Labor opposition to demand that Netanyahu government take the kind of risk it was not prepared to take upon itself.

Nor was the call for adherence to a dangerous commitment the only disappointing component of the Peres speech. Ignoring indications of a looming economic crisis, Peres bragged about his economic policies which were, if anything, more irresponsible than his government's "peace" moves. The loans guaranteed by the US have been squandered on raising the pay of the tumescent bureaucracy's employees, bringing on an inflation rate of 15 percent a year. The growth rate and productivity are down, while the trade and budget deficits have reached frightening levels. One of the government's first tasks will have to be the restoration of the economy's health.

If there was one comforting thought in yesterday's spectacle it was the fact that Netanyahu has shown himself capable of surviving worse crises than yesterday's minor fiasco. If he manages to get efficient team work out of his new government, yesterday's limping start will seem like a minor mishap. If he doesn't, it will be remembered as an omen of things to come.

Israel: Netanyahu Said Failed Government Formation Test

TA1906135996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 96 pp A1, A12

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Mountain Begat a Circus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was more entertaining than "Spitting Image" and funnier than "Politically Incorrect." You could have died of laughter had the circus not been our own. The haughty talk about a presidential regime and "a government of excellence" burst like a soap bubble yesterday, in one of the most shameful spectacles ever witnessed by the Knesset.

Netanyahu played his "hand" so close to his chest that he himself did not know so many jokers would jump out of it. What should have been the business card of a totally new kind of government, with a political message to the world and a message of renewal to the Israeli

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people, turned out to be hot air. At first it was amusing, but from one minute to the next the smile froze on our face and was replaced by embarrassment and shame, for them and for us. Along came worrisome questions: Is this the government and is this the way in which it will run the country for the next four and a half years? If Netanyahu didn't know how Sharon would proceed and what David Levi would do the very next minute, how will they foresee what lies in store for the country?

The new electoral system that was supposed to spare us the coalition horse trading and the failings of government flunked its first test, even before the government was presented. What we saw last night was that the characters that caused the notorious failings of previous Likud governments are alive and well and kicking. They gave Netanyahu his first lesson: He is not a president, nor an emperor, nor a king, nor a ruler, but a prime minister who failed to do his homework.

It was not too long ago his men said "so what!" when told that if Sharon refused to accept what was being offered him he would remain outside the government. From his southern ranch last night he taught Netanyahu a lesson, that breaking a promise has a price quoted in rancor and vindictiveness. Had the formation of the government been an exam at MIT, he would have gotten an F.

After we were done laughing and cringing with embarrassment it was time to worry. It was simply astonishing to see how a whole ministry was built from scratch within a quarter of an hour, without any planning or forethought but out of panic and fear of the man sitting at his ranch. The new government ministry, to be known in Israel as the ministry of infrastructure, will cost the state hundreds of millions at a time when the talk is about cuts and belt- tightening. The cabinet members who have not yet entered their new offices will have to contribute their share to assuage Netanyahu. This is so humiliating and embarrassing for Netanyahu that he has only one way to get even with Sharon: give him Ivet Lieberman.

Israel: 'Autocrat' Netanyahu Seen Ready To Risk All for Reelection

TA1806125096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 96 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "He Wants To Keep Them Small and Quaking in Their Boots"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government was formed by Chinese torture. Netanyahu bled the Likud stars dry with agonizing slowness. He transformed the Likud princes back into croaking frogs seeking his redemptive kiss. Every single official in the Likud was kept in the dark with regard to his personal future and they all took a beating whether they deserved it or not. A mere 24 hours before the government's presentation, even Netanyahu's closest allies — Limor Livnat and Tzahi Hanegbi — did not know whether or not they were in the cabinet and which portfolios they would receive. Had the Labor Party remained in power, it could never have humiliated the Likud as effectively as the latter's own leader. If Netanyahu symbolizes the revolution, then he has proven the adage about how revolutions devour their own children. The Likud, the party which ostensibly won the elections, now finds itself whipped and humiliated.

Netanyahu believes the end justifies the means. The end is Netanyahu's success, while everyone else are the means. There is no sacrifice that he will not make for his personal success. His word is meaningless. A promise is not a promise. Netanyahu promised Sharon the Treasury when no one believed he would be elected prime minister. Ben-Elisar was guaranteed a cabinet post if he did not secede from the Likud with David Levi. But Netanyahu views the election results as his personal victory; after all, as a party, the Likud was dealt a blow at the ballots. He feels he does not owe the princes anything. They did not believe that he was serious or capable of winning the elections. Now, if Netanyahu cannot dispose of them completely, he can at least demean them and show them who's boss. Netanyahu wants to go down in history as the most successful prime minister Israel ever had, and to do this he is willing to sacrifice the Likud.

Originally, the direct elections system was designed to preclude political blackmail by the smaller parties and to grant the prime minister more freedom of action. In effect, however, the disgusting spectacles that preceded the formation of the present government far overshadowed anything ever witnessed during the worst coalition negotiations under the old system. The cynical deals with Tzomet and Gesher, followed by the religious bonanza: not just portfolios, ministers, and deputy ministers but also a religious, right-wing justice minister as a bulwark against the Supreme Court and legislation on civil rights.

Instead of the freedom of action for the prime minister promised by the new system, it created a constitutional monster which delivered the country into the hands of an autocrat. Netanyahu is not yet in office, but he is already acting as if he and the State of Israel were one and the same. The Knesset will lose its power and standing. It will be emptied of all content if the Norwegian Law [according to which cabinet ministers resign from the legislature so that those below them in their party's lists can become members] is applied.

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The government will become some kind of secretariat. Even the inner cabinet will be devoid of any value since Netanyahu will control security from his bureau through the National Security Council. Netanyahu's concept of his role and power can be deduced from his conversation with Professor Ya'aqov Frenkel, who was briefly in the running for the Finance Ministry. When Prof. Frenkel told the Likud leader that he had no political troops behind him, Netanyahu replied that the government does not need any political troops under the new system. I am all the troops you need, Netanyahu said.

While the message to the Israeli public is that the prime minister calls all the shots and wields tremendous power, including the authority to fire and replace cabinet ministers whenever the urge strikes him, the message to the international community appears more positive. Netanyahu vowed to continue the peace process. He is promising an open and free economy, which will be guided by Frenkel's economic tenets even if Meridor is placed at the Finance Ministry helm. The fact that Sharon's wings have been clipped signals that the cabinet will not be in the sway of the constraints ministers [reference to Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i, who banded together in 1989 to pressure former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to adopt tough positions vis-a-vis Palestinians]. The huge bag of spoils that has fallen to the religious seems to indicate that even if Netanyahu initiates daring peace moves, they will think twice before leaving a government that has given them so much.

If I were the head of Syrian or Egyptian military intelligence, I would present the following assessment: The new Israeli leader will pay any price to win the next elections. With this in mind, he made huge concessions to Gesher and Tzomet at the expense of his own party. He gave half the kingdom to the religious, at the expense of his party. He promised the U.S. Administration to continue the peace process, which Washington sees as being based on the principle of land for peace. God willing, if we apply the right pressure on him, he will give up our holy lands — just as long as he can win the next elections.

Israel: Settlers Expect U.S. 'Monitoring' Teams in Settlements

TA1906102396 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jun 96 p 15

[Report by Tzvi Zinger]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip [CJSJSG] is preparing itself for the possibility that shortly after the government is established, the area will be flooded by monitoring groups working on behalf of various elements, who will seek to determine the scope of construction in the settlements.

CJSJSG officials expressed the assessment that the U.S. Embassy and Consulate will soon resume their tours of the settlements in a bid to ascertain the extent of construction there. The CJSJSG also estimated that European and other consulates may send teams of monitors.

It is believed the Palestinians will at the same time also field their own teams — this, in addition to activists from Peace Now and other left-wing groups.

As recalled, the U.S. Consulate sent teams to monitor developments in the settlements at the time of the Shamir government.

At this stage, the CJSJSG has not formulated any procedures on how to deal with this possibility; however, Aharon Domb, the CJSJSG spokesman declared that while the visitors should be granted a warm welcome, no information would be divulged.

Musi Raz, the secretary general of Peace Now, yesterday confirmed that his movement would renew the activities of its monitoring teams in the settlements. Raz said the teams would monitor developments and gather additional data from the various official information sources. In the reports published by its follow-up committee on the settlements, Peace Now will publish the construction costs there, "so that all the citizens know how much they are paying for construction in the settlements."

Raz said Peace Now would start holding protest vigils in the next few days. The first such rally will be held on 23 June opposite the Prime Minister's Office, and will call on the Netanyahu government to continue the peace process.

The first test of the Netanyahu government will be the question of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron, Raz said. "If Netanyahu tries to pull a fast one with regard to Hebron, I expect mass demonstrations."

Israel: Settlers Radio Says Arabs Can Be Only 'Guests' in Israel

TA1806170496 (Internet) 'Arutz 7 News Service in English 18 Jun 96

["'Arutz-7 Op-Ed: 'A Jewish State Or A State of All of Its Citizens' by Rabbi Shlomo Aviner to be aired on 'Arutz-7 in the near future"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Is the State of Israel a Jewish State, or rather a State of all its residents? There are

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those who argue that while one's religion is purely a personal matter — some people are Jewish, some are not, but all are human beings — the State, as a social framework, is concerned with the population as a whole, and not with the personal status of its residents; there are Jews and non-Jews here, and all have an equal claim in the State. So say those who see Israel as a state of all of its residents.

But in essence, the matter is not up for debate. This is a Jewish State. Herzl's dream was of a Jewish State. The Torah talks of a Jewish State. The People of Israel throughout the generations dreamed and longed for a Jewish State. Certainly those who, through great personal sacrifice, immigrated to the Land and helped build it, did so for the sake of a Jewish State and nothing else. We are not only Jews in our personal lives; in our communal lives, too, we are Jewish. We do not distinguish between what is "the Lord's" and what is "Caesar's," as did the early Christians ("Render unto Caesar..."). We are Jews not only in our relationship with heaven, but also in our relationship with our country; the Torah has much to teach us about how to run a country, an economy, an army, etc. Judaism includes everything. We are not merely a religion, but a People — a People with a religion, to be sure, but first and foremost we are the Jewish Nation.

Because we are a nation, we have a land, and a country. A nation without a country is sub-normal, even sick, just as we were for almost 1900 years. Therefore, this country is, quite simply, Jewish, and nothing else. We are not "against" non-Jews; we respect and honor them — providing, of course, that they don't murder us or otherwise harm the State. But the State is not theirs — it is ours. This may be insulting, and may even cause them pain, but it is true. If they, the Arabs, want their own State, they may choose from among 22 others. But this one is the Land that God gave Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for us. This is the State in which we were born, and blossomed, and in which we dwelled as a sovereign nation for hundreds of years. True, "because of our sins, we were exiled from our Land," as we say in our prayers, but throughout the generations we always knew that we would return home, and rebuild our country.

Amongst ourselves, there is plenty of diversity of opinion as to how the State should look, and how it should be run — religious, secular, left, right, etc. This gives us an extra push to work harder to find ways to cooperate in our common goal of building a State — a Jewish State. Non-Jews can also live here, and will be treated with respect and honor — but as individuals, and not as a national group. Individual rights they must have; rights of sovereignty in our land they cannot have. For this is our State, and not theirs. We are willing to have guests in our home, even long-term guests, and to relate to them in the most positive manner. The fact is that we relate to our Arab citizens better than any other nation in the world does to its Arab minority; we know it, they know it, and we are proud of it. But it must always remain clear: This always was, and will always remain, a State for the Jews, and a Jewish State.

(Rabbi Shlomo Aviner is the Rosh Yeshiva (Dean) of the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva in the Old City of Jerusalem, one of the Rabbis of Bet-El, and a prominent figure in the Religious Zionist Movement.)

Israel: Settler Expects Expansion To Thwart Palestinian State

TA1806162496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jewish settlement leaders in the West Bank and Gaza are demanding a massive increase in settlement activity during the term of the new government. Settlers hope that an increase of the number of Jewish residents in the territories to 0.5 million will thwart the creation of a Palestinian state. Reporter Mark Weiss asked Yehi'el Leiter, spokesman for the YESHA' [Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza] settlement council, what they expect from the new government:

[Begin recording] [Leiter] There are a number of different things we anticipate on a number of different planes. Firstly, of course, the issue of Jewish communities in YESHA'. We hope to see a thawing of the freeze that was imposed in August of 1992. Despite that freeze, of course, we did grow by some 15 percent, but the original plan in 1992, had it not been cut short, would have been for there to be 500,000 Jews in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza by the year 1996. We lost four years, and now it's time to make up for it.

[Weiss] Are you talking about extending existing settlements, or will your policy be to push for the creation of new settlements?

[Leiter] I think that's an issue of semantics. The real issue here is bolstering the population. There are 144 Jewish communities throughout YESHA', and there are many empty apartments that were built between 1990 and 1992. The first thing is for them to be thawed and for mortgages to be provided to allow families to move in. The next would be the building in the context of the existing communities, and if necessary, the building of new ones. Everything is dependent on a master plan, a government plan, and hopefully, we will reimplement the plan which began in full force in 1990. This is the key to preventing the evolution of a Palestinian state; that's the real issue, not whether or

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not a settlement will be built or settlements expanded. The only way to prevent the evolution of a PLO state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, particularly in light of Oslo, is for the continued growth and development of Jewish communities throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Weiss] Why have members of the YESHA' council been pushing so strongly over the last few days for the inclusion of Ari'el Sharon in the cabinet?

[Leiter] Well, again, for two reasons. Number one, it's unthinkable that the man who was so influential in orchestrating the Netanyahu victory and the victory of the national camp should be left out of the cabinet. Mr. Sharon is a leading expert on the war against terrorism in this country, and as this new government redresses the damage of Oslo and begins to fight terrorism, his expertise is certain to be needed in the cabinet. And, of course, he has been a most important advocate of Jewish rights in YESHA', and his presence in the cabinet is absolutely essential for those rights to be realized and for the natural growth to continue. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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Lebanon: Buwayz Stresses Madrid as Basis for Talks Resumption

NC1906194896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that any call to resume the peace negotiations must be made on the basis of Madrid conference, the principle of land for peace, and the implementation of international resolutions. He called on Israel to state clearly that it is committed to the peace process without making any independent interpretations that divest the process of its meaning.

Buwayz was commenting on the Israeli enemy's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's call on President Ilyas al-Hirawi to hold direct negotiations with him without preconditions. Buwayz said the new Israeli government has assumed a flexible appearance to cover up for a rigid reality that casts doubt on the peace process itself.

Lebanon: Syrian, Lebanese, Israeli Envoys Meet in Washington

NC2006072296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The April understanding countries resumed meetings in Washington last night, to discuss forming the Military Monitoring Committee. Lebanon's Ambassador Riyad Tabbarah and Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim noted that no changes have taken place in the Israeli ambassador's speech, who attended the meeting with instructions regarding the pending points from the new government. Ambassador Tabbarah said the meeting was useful, because during the meeting ideas were presented on the pending points. We will go back to our governments to get their opinion on these matters, Tabbarah said. He expressed his hopes that this opinion will be final; we will then be able to finalize forming the committee and setting its course of action. He pointed out that the Israeli ambassador issued new instructions regarding the points of conflict. Tabbarah noted that the issue of the rotation of the committee's chairmanship will be a point of discussion between Paris and Washington. On whether he noticed a change in Israel's tone, Tabbarah said he does not believe that from today's discussion one could say there are many big changes, because the agreement was reached as a result of previous activity. He clarified that discussions focused on the points of dispute only. He affirmed that the Israeli ambassador did not raise the issue of resistance activities in the south.

After a meeting the Syrian ambassador held with the U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross, he said: We did not reach agreement. We discussed the Israeli viewpoint on the last paragraph. We had to postpone the meeting in order for all of us to receive instructions on this matter. We will return to our governments for discussion. When told that the Israeli ambassador spoke about some progress being made, he said: Not to my knowledge. We have taken note of each other's ideas. We will go back to our governments. There is an Israeli proposal regarding one point. We did not discuss the period during which the chairmanship will rotate. He affirmed he has not sensed any change in the Israeli instructions, because the point they discussed was a purely technical point, not political.

Lebanon: SLA Reportedly Abducts 5 People

NC1906063396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 June 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from the occupied border strip indicate that the occupation forces have brought in reinforcements to their position in al-Qantarah. Meanwhile, warplanes are conducting intensive overflights in the western, central, and eastern sectors. The Agent militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] led by Agent Antoine Lahd kidnapped five citizens in Jazzin and took them to an unknown destination.

An Israeli occupation army spokesman has confirmed the arrest of the Lebanese AFP correspondent, 'Ali Diya, claiming that the Israeli authorities are questioning him in connection with a possible link to Hizballah.

A Hizballah statement dismissed the Israeli reports and emphasized that the Israeli justifications are nothing but a mere excuse used by the Israelis to silence voices and stifle freedom.

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Syria: Khaddam on Arab Summit, Peace, Turkey, Iraq

NC1906174496 London MBC Television in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Interview with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by MBC Television correspondent Tawfiq Jazulit in Damascus; date not given; from the "Talk of the Hour" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jazulit] Let us begin with a discussion on the Qana massacre. Although the event occurred about two months ago, Lebanese in the south are still experiencing bad conditions under continuing Israeli shelling. Do you think Israel achieved its objectives with that appalling massacre in southern Lebanon?

[Khaddam] The Israeli aggression against Lebanon in April had major objectives. The most important one was to trap the Lebanese state into a separate peace by shaking Lebanon's domestic stability. The Israelis believed that pouring tens of thousands of shells onto the south and displacing hundreds of thousands of people would create security, political, social, and economic confusion in Lebanon. This in turn would make the Lebanese state helpless and it would therefore surrender to Israeli demands.

[Jazulit] So this was the Israeli objective?

[Khaddam] Yes, this was Israel's objective.

[Jazulit] Has Israel achieved this objective?

[Khaddam] The Israeli scheme failed because the Lebanese were aware of the objectives of the aggression and were determined to hold out to liberate their land. Add to this the immense cohesion among the various social and political groups in the country, the cohesion between the people and the state, the Syrian support, President Hafiz al-Asad's good management of the negotiations with the Americans, and Arab and international sympathy. The aggression—with the Qana massacre as its most salient feature— showed that the Arab people's situation is gaining ground. Those who watched peoples' sentiments in all parts of the Arab world during the aggression realized the formidable amount of pain, bitterness, and sense of injustice toward Israel and the forces that support it. The aggression failed, and a new road for an Arab renaissance opened up.

[Jazulit] This leads us to the Syrian diplomatic role. Syria undoubtedly played an important role at this time, especially regarding developments with the United States and the three-way summit here in Damascus, which paved the way for the Arab summit. What do you expect from the Arab summit?

[Khaddam] An Arab summit should be held every year. A decision to this effect was made in 1979, indeed at the Rabat summit in 1974, but no summit was held on the pretext that there were Arab differences...

[Jazulit, interrupting] But these differences do exist, Mr. Vice President.

[Khaddam] They do exist. But when there are differences and problems, a summit must be held to address them. When differences, problems, and threats overshadow the Arab homeland and every Arab country, the Arabs need a summit to solve problems, work out regulations, and draft policies. They need a summit in such circumstances more than they need it when they have good, cordial relations.

[Jazulit] But Mr. Vice President, there are principled differences—for example, between Syria and Egypt, and between Syria and Jordan regarding the content and ways of achieving peace. And over the past few months there was a kind of a media war among the Arabs. Have you achieved a minimum agreement with both Jordan and Egypt, for example, on confronting the developments in the next stage?

[Khaddam] Irrespective of differences between one country and another, this government and that, an Arab summit should be convened. If a summit succeeds in resolving the differences, it will be doing a great job. If it fails to find final solutions, it will at least find a way to contain the differences. Syria and Egypt agree on basic things. They agree that peace must be just, comprehensive, and based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425—that is, peace must be established on the resolutions of global legitimacy. We also agree that peace is the basic option of the Arabs. As you know, there are constant contacts between our two governments and regular meetings between the presidents of the two countries. Naturally, each country may have its own views on some issue or another. When we meet, we discuss these views and reach common denominators. Different viewpoints do not necessarily mean differences. Egypt and Syria may have different interpretations of this subject or that, and this is natural.

But as regards the Jordanian Government, the differences concern our understanding of the nature and objectives of the Israeli state and the objectives of the Zionist movement. Syria believes Israel is a hostile state because it has carried out aggression against the Arabs and is still doing so by occupying Arab territory, refusing to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian

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people, besieging the Palestinian people, continuing military attacks against Lebanon, refusing to withdraw from the Arab territories, and continuing to build settlements. Given all this, we see in Israel a hostile state. For us to agree to deal with it, peace must first be established; and for peace to be established, the Arabs must regain all their occupied land and all their rights.

For its part, the Jordanian government believes it is possible to have a partnership with Israel; and this is indeed taking place. So, the differences are about how each of us assesses the Hebrew state, its objectives, and the way to deal with it.

[Jazulit] Then there are great tasks awaiting the Arab summit. Where does Lebanon stand on the Arab summit?

[Khaddam] Lebanon will certainly be an issue and will be represented as a state. Just like Syria, Lebanon's land is occupied. Lebanon resists occupation and is being subjected to aggression. It is thus natural for Lebanon to be present. We hope it will receive the sympathy it deserves from the brother Arabs.

[Jazulit] Let us continue our talk about Lebanon and the internal situation there. There is talk in Lebanese and Arab political circles about the elections. Has the road to elections been charted? Do you believe that the Lebanese elections will be held on schedule?

[Khaddam] We believe the Lebanese elections will be held as announced by the officials in Lebanon. If you follow the Lebanese press you will see that the election fever has actually started. Through contacts with our brothers in Lebanon, we can confirm that the elections will be held on time. Nothing can hinder this.

[Jazulit] Mr. Vice President, some voices in Lebanon demand the withdrawal of the Syrian troops. What do you say to them?

[Khaddam] As long as they are just voices, they merit no response. We are dealing with the Lebanese state and the Lebanese people in general. Lebanon and Syria are linked by ties known to all. Our brothers in Lebanon are well aware of the role Syria has played to stop the civil war, establish peace in Lebanon, restore the role of the state, and return stability to the Lebanese territories. If a voice is raised here or there, they do not concern us. We are only concerned with what the Lebanese people, as represented by their constitutional institutions, want.

[Jazulit] Then you believe that Syria has a strategic relationship with Lebanon, particularly vis-a-vis the Israeli enemy, do you not?

[Khaddam] Naturally. We believe and are convinced that our relations are strategic, not only with Lebanon, but with each and every Arab state. The Arab nation in its entirety is threatened. The Israeli aggression does not threaten Syria or Lebanon alone. To understand Israel's goals well, we have to go back to the literature of the Zionist movement. Let us go back to the visit Anwar al-Sadat paid to Jerusalem, when he visited the Israeli Knesset and was received by Yitzhaq Shamir, who was head of Knesset at the time. What did he say to al-Sadat at the time? He addressed the Knesset, saying: The president of Egypt is with us. We welcome him according to the prophecy of Isaiah. He then read the prophecy, which said that Jerusalem is the house of Jacob's god and the cradle of prophets. Many people will come to it, beating their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and will not take arms up against Israel.

They want a peace under which they can control the region. They want to control the security, economic, military, scientific, and technological sectors. In other words, they want to dominate the entire region. All that the people of the region are requested to do is render service to the Israelis. This concept is not included in the Zionist doctrine alone; it is also included in the Talmud. They say they have the right to own what others have. The political program Netanyahu will present, as leaked by the media this morning, includes an article that gives Jews the right to settle in the land of Israel. What is Israel's land? It is the land defined in the Torah.

[Jazulit] The land of Palestine?

[Khaddam] Palestine and other lands. Therefore, the threat does not involve Syria and Lebanon alone; it involves the Arab nation from the far east to the far west. Hence, it is necessary for the Arab homeland to have real strategic relations based on the one destiny, interests, and goals.

[Jazulit] We shall go back to the Syrian-Israeli track. But we want to stay in Lebanon, particularly south Lebanon. Hizballah might be the only armed resistance facing Israel. Hizballah also has strategic relations with Iran. How far can you influence Hizballah...[pauses] or support Hizballah as a legitimate national resistance that seeks to expel the Israeli forces from Lebanese land?

[Khaddam] As Arabs, we assisted and sympathized with national liberation movements in Africa and in Asia, because they struggled to liberate themselves from colonialism. If in the past we stood on the side of other people, is it conceivable not to sympathize with our brothers who are standing fast against occupation and working to liberate their land?

The position we are taking is the same as that of any Arab citizen. If you go to Morocco and ask the

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citizens what they think of those who fight Israel to liberate their land, he will give you the answer. Our answer is the same as that citizen's, whether he is in Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, or any spot in the Arab world. Yes we sympathize with each Lebanese and each Arab who stands up to the Israeli occupation. This is natural and nobody can deny us this right.

[Jazulit] But the West confuses support for the resistance and liberation movements in Lebanon with terrorism. The West, therefore, insinuates that Syria is closely linked to terrorism. What do you say to the West, and to the United States in particular?

[Khaddam] The West knows that Syria does not support terrorism. No one in the West can cite one incident in which Syria was involved. But this campaign seeks to put pressure on Syria to make concessions to Israel. It is part of a psychological war. Such wars do not hurt us and will not affect our determination or our positions.

[Jazulit] We want to focus now on the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process. We know that the Israeli prime minister-elect has spelled out his quote peace policy unquote toward Syria by stating that he will not give up the Golan Heights. We know your principled stand is that there will be no peace with Israel without the return of the whole of the Golan Heights to Syria. Is this not so, Mr. Vice President? How will you deal with the fait accompli which the new Israeli prime minister wants to impose?

[Khaddam] First of all, no one should imagine that Syria could give up one iota of its soil. Peace is not an objective. The objective is the restoration of the land and the achievement of stability in the region. Consequently, if the land remains under the control of the aggressive occupier, no one should imagine that there will be peace. No one should imagine that the relations established thus far between Israel and some Arabs can continue. There is a real political-popular reality which all must understand. One Arab official or another might make a political decision, and it then transpire that this decision is a one-way street. In that case, no one can prevent the forces of history from correcting that wrong decision. No peace will be established in the region if one inch of Arab land remains occupied. Peace in the region will not be established if one iota of Arab rights is lost.

We want peace. This is the path we have chosen. We did not choose it under pressure from any side; we chose it out of self-confidence and for the sake of the interests of our nation and people. However, peace, as I have noted, is that which removes the causes of war. The causes of war are Israel's aggression and expansionism. If Israel, or the new Israeli government, wants peace according on its own terms, this means that it wants to obstruct the movement of the peace process kicked off at the Madrid Conference in 1991. Consequently, Israel will bear responsibility for its actions before the international community and the world public. Thereafter, the Arabs—governments and peoples—would have to seriously reconsider their policies and create circumstances that will enable them to confront the hardline Israeli stance.

[Jazulit] Therefore, in principle, Syria and Israel have different stands. How do you view the U.S. role? In the view of the Arab public, the United States, as the godfather of the peace process, has not played the objective role required of it. There is strategic sympathy between Israel and United States. Has the United States lost its credibility? When President Hafiz al-Asad refused to meet the U.S. secretary of state, was he sending a message that the United States had lost its credibility?

[Khaddam] Everyone knows the nature of the relationship between Israel and the United States. The Americans do not adopt secret policies. They declare them. They announce binding policies which are harmful to the Arabs.

They announce policies that the Arabs feel are unjust. This is correct. However, at the same time, we have written commitments from the United States that it will continue to work to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We have written commitments from the United States that it does not approve of the annexation of one inch of Syrian territory by Israel. We have these clear commitments. So far we have not seen any change in the U.S. stance. Therefore, we do not want to anticipate matters and adopt any stances as long as there are no changes to the present situation.

[Jazulit] After the Qana tragedy, media sources said that Syrian diplomacy had scored a victory. This was represented by the visit of the Qatari foreign minister to Syria to reaffirm to the Syrian leadership that his country had reconsidered its stance [on Israel]. Is there cooperation with the Gulf states in this regard? Is there coordination with the Arab Gulf states regarding the future of peace in the Middle East?

[Khaddam] Naturally, our brothers in the Gulf have affirmed that they stand on the side of Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian people. All the statements issued by their meetings attest to this. We hope that the fraternal Arab countries that have opened their doors to Israel under the notion that such a step encourages Israel to pursue the peace process, we hope they will study the

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situation carefully in light of the new Israeli policy. This policy closes the door to peace. We hope they will take the necessary steps to support the Arab stance in the face of Israel.

[Jazulit] This is your appeal to the Arab states that have established diplomatic relations with Israel. Syrian diplomacy played a big role in preparing for the Arab summit in Egypt and convincing the Arab leaders to attend it. Do you have indications that this summit will secure the bottom line of Arab solidarity?

[Khaddam] We must work. Our work must be based on hope and not despair. We believe there are great prospects for the success of the summit. We will do our utmost to secure its success. When President Hafiz al-Asad participated in the tripartite summit and called for the Arab summit he acted on the premise that we must do our utmost to stop the collapse and to begin a new positive stage in the Arab situation. We hope we will accomplish something. We might not realize our ambitions, but certainly we hope to make positive and serious achievements.

[Jazulit] The U.S. Administration has asked us, the Arabs, to wait, not to be hasty, and to wait and see what the new Israeli Government's policy is.

[Khaddam] Wait for what? The Israeli platform was announced during the elections. Even if we suppose that Netanyahu is moderate...

[Jazulit, interrupting] He is not a moderate.

[Khaddam] He is not. But even under the assumption that he is moderate, he is allied to extremist religious parties and his platform is governed by these parties' stand. Therefore, the program of the Likud, and that of the parties allied with it, obstructs serious steps toward peace, on which the entire world is unanimous. Therefore, they want us to wait in order to market Netanyahu's policy— Israel's new policy.

[Jazulit] That is, the United States is marketing the Israeli policy?

[Khaddam] Marketing this policy, because we must not forget that the United States has entered its own election campaign.

[Jazulit] The American Jewish vote is very important in electing the president.

[Khaddam] Anyway, the Jews in the United States have political power. Nonetheless, we Arabs must decide on our own interests. We must not wait for anyone else to decide these interests for us. If the Arabs fail to determine their own interests or define what does and does not serve them, we must not expect foreigners to decide for us.

[Jazulit] Let us go back to a topic that specifically concerns Syria, namely, ties between Syria and your neighbor Turkey. I believe the Turkish Government has announced that it is conducting military maneuvers in Turkish territory. There are also indications that there are concentrations of Turkish forces on the border with Syria. Is this true?

[Khaddam] In fact, there are some Turkish concentrations in areas along the border.

[Jazulit] Does this mean that Turkey is up to something?

[Khaddam] We do not want to envisage such a possibility. We have not taken any military measures. Turkey knows very well, and all of us in the region know, that tension is in no one's interest. There are concentrations and some provocations from time to time. A security committee has been formed by the two countries. Some time ago, we asked for a meeting of this committee to discuss certain provocations. However, no date has been set for the meeting. As I have said, we have not taken any measures under the pressure of tensions, because tension is not in the interest of Turkey, Syria, or the region as a whole.

[Jazulit] It seems that Iraq will not attend the Cairo summit. We know there have been differences in principle between Damascus and Baghdad for years. We also know that certain foreign forces and some Arab countries seem to want to overthrow the regime in Iraq. Do you agree with these countries acting in this direction?

[Khaddam] First, in principle we reject any act of interference in the domestic affairs of any other Arab country regardless of our views of that regime. Iraq, as a country, is being targeted. Iraq's territorial unity and that of its people are also being targeted. There are indeed foreign schemes aimed at fragmenting Iraq and establishing ministates and creating internal conflicts in Iraq along ethnic and religious lines. The goal is to dismantle this fraternal Arab country as part of the general strategy of the Zionist movement to fragment the Arabs and destroy their national and pan-Arab unity. Our stand is to oppose this scheme because it concerns the fate of a fraternal Arab country that is very dear to us. All Arabs must stand against such attempts. Iraq's unity as a state is vital to us.

[Jazulit] The last question relates to the media. As you know, Israel used the media as one of the foundations of its psychological warfare against the Arabs. I believe the Israelis succeeded to a certain degree in this respect. Arab media no doubt has developed in the past few years, particularly the television stations that use

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satellites. From watching the Arab media, do you believe that we have progressed to the point where the media convey the facts about the Arab region to the Arab viewers and public?

[Khaddam] I believe Arab media has taken good steps forward, particularly in satellite use. I personally follow some satellite stations and their political programs, which play a great role in what can be called the Arab revival movement. During the events in Lebanon, certain satellite stations, including MBC, played an important role in conveying the facts, which helped mobilize Arab and world public opinion. The Arab media has taken good steps, but no doubt there are many steps to take. We must realize Israel possesses not only of its own resources and those the world Jewish forces, but a large part of the Western media is also under Zionist control. Nonetheless, the media has a basic role in this prolonged conflict. We hope the media will continue on this path.

[Jazulit] We hope this too, and we thank you for this meeting in your office in Damascus, Mr. Vice President. We hope that the Arab summit will succeed and we will wait for its results. We hope to meet with you again under better conditions. Thank you.

Syria: Chief Negotiator Blames 'Current Crisis' on Israel's Peres

NC1906181196 Cairo MENA in English 1730 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 19 (MENA)—It is no secret that the Middle East peace process is facing a crisis now with the Israeli Likud party's forming the new Israeli government, chief of the Syrian team negotiating peace with Israel, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR weekly, to appear on Friday [21 June], al-'Allaf blamed outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres for the current crisis.

The past five years of negotiations between the Arabs and Israel, have led to no tangible results, he said, regretting that most of the Arab territories are still occupied, with the exception of the relatively small Jordanian lands.

The Syrians were very serious since the very beginning of negotiations with Israel, al-'Allaf said, they wanted talks to move on to the essential issues for realising a just and all-out regional peace, he said.

Israel was disregardful of the issues of top interest to the Arabs, such as the liberation of lands, he said. It was only making preconditions and seemed to care about nothing but the future of economic, diplomatic and cultural ties and its commitment to implementing the principles on which the entire peace march is based, he added.

Israel kept maneuvering and procrastinating until the very last moment, he said. Its stand had always been met by Syrian negotiators with one response, namely, the demand for abidance by the international resolutions on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, he said.

Al-'Allaf admitted that the peace talks had been affected by the Israeli elections. He cited Peres as an example, saying that Peres, who had always been against the idea of putting any agreement on the Golan and any partial or final accord with the Palestinians for a public referendum, changed his stance for election purposes. On the extent to which talks between Syria and Israel over security arrangements have reached, he said that Syria found it of no avail to talk about security arrangements before Israel's promising a full withdrawal from the Golan. Though Israel had always been saying that it is willing to make concessions, never once has it announced that it is prepared to withdraw to the pre- 1967 lines, he said. There is no real great difference between the Israeli Likud and Labour Parties, the Syrian chief peace negotiator said. He expects matters to be more complicated despite Israeli Prime Minister Elect Binyamin Netanyahu's recent announcement of his readiness for negotiations.

Regretting the current deadlock in the peace talks, he said that Peres should have used the chance of the assassination of late Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin to win a unanimous support for peace.

Syria: 'Sources' Say Netanyahu Statement 'Buries' Peace

JN2006072096 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Official Syrian sources told Radio Monte Carlo that Netanyahu's statement buries the peace process, noting that the Israeli prime minister's government embodies this statement. The sources said Netanyahu's call on Syria to achieve peace without conditions is out of the question if the Golan is among these conditions. The sources added that Netanyahu canceled the legitimacy of peace and ignored international resolutions.

The sources said that Netanyahu's exposure of his political cards — which do not consider real peace important — prompts the Arab summit to embrace a strategy that confronts this intransigence and closes the door before voices who demand giving Netanyahu an

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opportunity before passing a verdict against him. The sources reiterated that Syria always welcomes peace if it is in accordance with bases and resolutions that form the terms of reference of the Madrid conference.

In an article published in the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, Fayiz al-Sa'igh, director general of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, said that Netanyahu's statement contains a declaration of war against peace and a call to revive Zionist ideology. Al-Sa'igh notes that the mere convocation of the Arab summit amid these circumstances is a victory for the Arabs. He says greater victory lies in the summit's outcome in terms of unifying stands and words, reviving solidarity, and solidifying stands.

Syria: Paper Says Netanyahu's Statement 'War Against Peace'

JN1906091496 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 19 Jun (SANA)—In an article published today in the column "Together on the Road," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the exaggerated emphasis in Netanyahu's political program on Israeli security is a direct attack on pan-Arab security, especially since the Israeli prime minister does not link security and peace. As a matter of fact, he places Israeli security above peace, considering Israeli security a prelude to peace rather than an outcome of peace.

In an article by Dr. Fayiz al-Sa'igh, director general of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, the paper says that using the language of peace, Netanyahu has launched a war against peace. He called for reviving the well-known hostile Zionist thinking, encouraging and protecting settlement activities in all the occupied Arab lands, and supporting the settlers. He also reiterated the statement that Jerusalem is the united and eternal capital of Israel. Israel continues to look for a capital at the expense of the Arabs' rights and lands.

The paper goes on to say: So that Netanyahu's words about peace would not hide his trends to build more settlements, voices should be raised to say that the Israeli prime minister's political program is contradictory in form, but harmonious in content. This makes the Arab summit's task obvious and clear. People should not be misled by the peace remarks Netanyahu utters and was forced to propagate. They should scrutinize matters and examine details carefully.

Concluding, the newspaper says: Undoubtedly, the mere convocation of the Arab summit amid the current circumstances is in itself a victory for the Arabs. The summit would be a true victory for the Arabs if it were to succeed in unifying Arab positions, reviving solidarity, and adopting firm positions in defense of land, rights, and just and comprehensive peace.

Syria: Commentary Says Netanyahu 'Not Interested' in Peace

JN1906133196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 19 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Past years' experience has proved that peace cannot be made by words, circumvention, or ignoring facts, but by brave practical stands that abide by the bases and principles of a just and comprehensive peace. However, the new Israeli prime minister has resorted at the start of his term to playing with words, in the belief that this will help him deceive the Arabs and world public opinion.

At the start of his term, the new Israeli prime minister presented his government program to the Knesset. The program includes a full rejection of the bases and principles of peace, thereby defying the international legitimacy and its resolutions. In his address after presenting the members of his government, he spoke about peace and his desire to hold negotiations and to continue the peace process without any conditions and without defining the nature of the peace that he meant—ignoring the fact that his government program is based on rejecting the conditions of the peace that are acknowledged by the international community and the cosponsors of the peace process. Thus, the new Israeli prime minister has reversed the peace process to the pre-Madrid era. Even a swift reading of the Israeli Government program and the stands and platform of its prime minister reaffirms that Israel is not interested in establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

It is obvious that the new Israeli Government seeks to impose capitulation on the Arabs and to control the region. It deals with the region and its peoples, as well as with issue of peace, out of the logic of force and military superiority. It builds its calculations and schemes in light of the Arab situation, in which divisions and differences prevail.

The new Israeli prime minister believes that he can continue this course and policy while maintaining his relations with some Arab countries. In fact, he hopes to deepen and expand these relations. This matter puts the ball in the court of the upcoming Arab summit. In light of this, we believe the main question that must be discussed at the summit is: to be or not to be.

The Arab masses, who are loyal to their history and dignity and who have faith in their future, call on

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their leaders to be on the level of the historic and pan-Arab responsibility. The Arab masses call on their leaders to renounce differences, unite ranks and stands, and to loudly announce — in one voice — a unified position that supports a just and comprehensive peace, based on the international legitimacy resolutions and land-for-peace principle. This position should reject any relinquishment of Arab rights and should link any dealings with Israel to achieving a peace that returns all lands and does not encroach on national and pan-Arab dignity.

The world will be us with us, inasmuch as we are with ourselves and inasmuch as we adhere to our lands and rights. Today's world does not respect the weak. If we want to maintain our role in the international arena as a nation whose word is listened to and taken into consideration, we must be together in word and deed. We have enough material, human, economic, and military potentials to become effective. The condition to achieve the just and comprehensive peace that we seek is Israel's commitment to the international legitimacy and its resolutions. However, the condition of Israel's commitment is the unity of our word and will. This is what the upcoming Arab summit should embody, entrench, and declare to the world.

Syria: Editorial Says U.S. Military Aid to Israel 'Alarming' to Arabs

JN1906115996 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 18 Jun 96 p 5

[Editorial by Fuad Mardud: "For the Sake of Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The guidelines of the new Israeli government, as broadcast by Radio Israel yesterday, left no room for predictions or explanations: working to active peace with Syria without evacuating the Golan Heights, no Palestinian state, no talks about Jerusalem with the Palestinians, and giving the Jewish settlements movement a free hand in all the occupied Arab territories including the Golan.

Yet, the Middle East peace process was spoken about in Washington this week, as both President Bill Clinton and his Secretary of State Warren Christopher called upon the forthcoming Arab summit not to give "early judgments" on Netanyahu's government. How and why, Clinton and Christopher did not give concrete answers. Mr. Netanyahu did not help, either.

These days are important, though predictable, occasion. Clinton, with an election ahead of him, and Netanyahu with an election just behind him were speaking mostly to their own electors. Nothing was revealed of the basic principles which allowed Clinton and Christopher to enthusiastically recommend the policy of wait and see to the Arabs. In this year of election, the talk was all about the improvement of relations with the coming Likud government of Israel which automatically means an improvement of Clinton's election chances among Jewish voters in the United States.

There were no warning messages for the Arabs from Washington. This may not matter too much, but renewed American commitment to a qualitative Israeli military edge in the Middle East, as given by Secretary Christopher at the special session of the U.S. Congress last week, is much alarming for the Arabs.

The Arabs will want to know very soon more about what Mr. Netanyahu will give in return for peace. Much has been said during the election campaign and after in the guidelines of the new Israeli government, but the central issue now is what substantive terms will be offered by Mr. Netanyahu, and how the U.S. will react.

The Arab nation has already chosen peace as a strategic choice. The Cairo summit is likely to endorse this and put weight on it, but, at the same time, it will keep the door shut in the face of any Israeli manoeuvre in order to guard Arabs not to be taken for fools. If peace making is to go anywhere, the new government of Israel has to give assurances that Netanyahu's positions during his campaign will not become his government's official policy. Clear commitments to making peace according to Madrid principles and format have to be announced so that the Cairo summit will learn how serious Mr. Netanyahu is about peace making, and whether President Clinton will make peace, not simply talk about it.

Syria: Information Minister Says Country Faces 'Conspiracy' To Distort Image

MM2006094196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uqbah 'Ali al-Salih: "Information Minister Muhammad Salman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Syria Facing Conspiracy, Preparing Economic Decisions"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris — Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that "there is a conspiracy to distort Syria's image abroad with a view to glossing over the composition of the new Israeli Government, which represents everything that is hostile toward peace."

The Syrian minister, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone, said: The reports carried by some Western media fall within the framework of an organized campaign designed to harm Syria, and they are absolutely baseless.

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Salman went on to say that "the Syrian leadership will — most likely next month — amend a number of economic laws that have been in force in Syria since the sixties, in order to serve citizens, give a new impetus to the Syrian economic reforms process, and rectify its course in line with the climate of stability and the state of institutions build by President Hafiz al-Asad in Syria." [passage omitted]

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani, Hekmatyar Finalize Provisional Government

LD1806084496 Tehran IRNA in English 0604 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 18, IRNA — The Afghan Government led by President Borhanoddin Rabbani and former prime minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami are reportedly finalizing list of the Afghan provisional government.

According to an Afghan official on Monday, [17 Jun] the proposed list of the high council of the government has been sent to Hekmatyar who is said to assume the post of premiership in the future government.

The source, who asked for anonymity, added that Hekmatyar is expected to decide on the list shortly and if both sides agreed, it will be announced officially.

The source also said that Hekmatyar has rejected the post of defence minister for a member of Hezb-e Eslami and has instead suggested the post of interior minister.

The party is also insisting that the present commander-in-chief of the government forces Ahmad Shah Mas'ud should take up a post in the provisional government, however, both proposals of the Hezb-e Eslami have so far been accepted neither by the government nor by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the source added.

Describing the remaining differences as trivial, the source said that the official announcement of the list of the provisional government was delayed by efforts to bring in more opposition forces into the future government.

The Kabul government and Hekmatyar have agreed [passage indistinct]

Rabbani and Hekmatyar signed a peace agreement on May 24 to bring an end to the conflicts and jointly announced the formation of a new military-political coalition in Kabul.

Presently about 2,000 forces of Hezb-e Eslami and the government forces have created a security belt around Kabul.

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Meets Tajik Islamic Party Leader Zhimmadzoda

LD1906192496 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from the First Corps in Nangarhar Province that yesterday morning Mohammad Sharif Khimmadzoda, the first vice-president of the Islamic Revival Party in Tajikistan, met brother Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Afghan Islamic Party], and gave him information on the mojahedin operation in Tajikistan. Khimmadzoda expressed pleasure at the agreement between the Hezb-e Eslami and the Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Afghan Islamic Society] and said: May the agreement between the two parties, which are the main pillars of the Islamic movement in Afghanistan, lead to the restoration of peace and security and the establishment of an Islamic regime in Afghanistan, which will render its Islamic duty as a real supporter of the Islamic movements in central Asia.

Brother Hekmatyar advised Khimmadzoda to show fortitude and forbearance in the holy war in Tajikistan.

Afghanistan: High-Ranking Delegation Meets Hekmatyar in Jalalabad

LD1906224096 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking government delegation comprising Civil Aviation Minister Dr. 'Abdol Rahman, Minister of Borders Mohammad Sedeq Chakari, and Deneshayr, assistant secretary general of Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Afghan Islamic Society], has arrived in Jalalabad to meet Brother Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Afghan Islamic Party].

A Radio Message of Freedom Correspondent reports from the First Corps in Nangarhar that the high-ranking government delegation headed by 'Abdol Rahman arrived in Jalalabad for talks on related issues yesterday afternoon. The delegation met Hekmatyar in the late evening.

Hekmatyar gave the delegation information about the conspiracies that have been hatched against the Hezb-Jam'iyat agreement, especially about the Washington conference and its dangerous consequences, and deliberated on the participation of the Kabul government's delegation in the conference.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Awami League, BNP Win 12 Seats Each in Repolling

BK2006014096 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0018 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Following repolling at 122 centers for the 27 parliamentary constituencies where elections were postponed earlier, results of 26 constituencies were announced yesterday. Of those, Awami League secured 12, Bangladesh Nationalist Party 12, and Jatiya Party two. Results of (?Comilla-2) constituency was

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withheld as voting was suspended at a voting center there due to disturbances. Repolling at the center at [name indistinct] Primary School will be held on 22 June.

Bangladesh: AFP Reports 'Formidable' Parliamentary Opposition to AL

BK2006104696 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 20 (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League [AL] is poised to storm back to power after winning a near absolute majority Thursday, but faces the most formidable parliamentary opposition in Bangladesh's 25-year history.

After winning another dozen seats in a second round of voting dotted with sporadic violence in 27 constituencies Wednesday, the League's total standing in the 330-seat national parliament stood at 147.

With 31 seats pledged to her by the Jatiya Party (JP) of jailed former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and one from the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) her climb to power next week is assured.

It is Bangladesh's greatest come-back story: the League was in the political wilderness for more than two decades following the ousting of the post-independence League government in a 1975 bloody military coup.

"We are obviously deeply satisfied (with the results) and we are alert to the fact that people have a lot of expectations," Abul Hasan Chowdhury, a parliamentarian-elect and an influential party leader, told AFP.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas who belongs to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is expected to invite Wajed to form a government after MPs take oath Friday.

The BNP, with 116 seats, emerged as the single largest opposition since this South Asian nation's bloody birth in 1971 and analysts said it would leave no stone unturned to make Wajed's rule a difficult one.

Wajed's arch-rival Khaleda Zia who heads the BNP, has described the first round of elections last June 12 as "subtly rigged in a massive way." She had repeatedly said in pre-poll statements that the BNP would never sit in the opposition.

But the former premier, who had been criticised for being rarely seen in the house as the parliamentary leader, is now left with no choice but to adapt to her new role as the opposition leader.

Analysts add that the 49 year-old Wajed is confident of moving to a comfortable and absolute majority after parliament votes for 30 seats reserved for women.

These seats traditionally go to the party or allies that muster a majority.

Chowdhury added that JP support would be needed to form the government until the 30 women are voted into parliament.

He voiced confidence that the 30 women's seats would be the League's under any circumstances.

Wajed held several rounds of talks with top leaders of the JP, which despite getting fewer seats than in 1991 has seen its influence boosted in a hung parliament.

The League may face criticism for joining hands with a party dubbed "autocratic", analysts said, as did Zia's BNP, when it formed its government in 1991 with the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party.

"What can we do, people have put us in such a position by their verdict, that did not give Wajed the 151 seats required for an absolute majority," Chowdhury said.

Meanwhile, Wajed was reported to be working on the list of her cabinet.

A reliable League source said the JP may get two posts in Wajed's council of ministers as well as two of the womens' seats.

Asked if that meant a coalition government, the source said "no, absolutely not ... it is just a gesture for their support."

JP's leader Ershad, who ruled Bangladesh with an iron fist for about nine years, resigned in 1990 in the face of a mass pro- democracy campaign led by Wajed and Zia. The former military dictator is serving a 13-year jail term for two cases of graft.

Awami League leaders dismissed fears that they could be harassed by the powerful opposition at every turn.

A senior League leader and prospective minister said "we have promised that parliamentary committees will not be headed by ministers as has been (the case) in the past, but by lawmakers — even those in the opposition."

"We welcome a strong opposition which is good for parliamentary democracy," Chowdhury added.

Bangladesh: President Discusses Formation of New Government

BK2006123396 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas said today that he will call upon the leader of the majority party to form the new government after the newly elected members of parliament have

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taken their oaths. The president this while talking to members of the National Democratic Institute at the President House in Dhaka today. The delegation was led by former U.S. Congressman, Stephen Solarz. The other members of the delegation included Mr. Andrew Peacock, Mr. (Eric Bjornson), and Mr. (Andrew Olef). President Biswas said that he is bound to strictly abide by the provisions of the Constitution and that he will not deviate from it.

The members of the delegation said that they had come to Bangladesh as observers to watch the election activities; not to support any particular political party. They expressed satisfaction over the large numbers of voters who participated and opined that the responsibility of the new government would be to implement the hopes and aspirations of the people in a democratic spirit.

India

India: Congress Threatens To 'Reconsider' Support for Government

BK1906130696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has said his party will reconsider its support to the United Front government if its actions are detrimental to the interest of the country.

Addressing a party workers meeting in his Lok Sabha constituency of Behrampur in Orissa, Mr. Rao said the Congress has extended unconditional support to the Deve Gowda government, but it is not a blind support. Mr. Rao said if the government commits grave mistakes which go against the basic principle of Congress and does not correct them, the party will be forced to reconsider its support. However, Mr. Rao expressed confidence that the United Front government will be a stable one as it has the support of more than 300 members in the Lok Sabha.

India: 'Sources' Report Delegation Not To Endorse CTBT Draft

BK1906142896 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Prakash Nada]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India will not endorse the proposed draft of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) at the committee on disarmament (CD) in Geneva, it is reliably learnt. The proposed draft is likely to be put to vote on June 28. A formal cabinet decision to this effect is likely to be taken anytime now.

The United Front [UF] government seriously considered to disengage itself from the negotiations at the CD, as demanded by the critics at home, including the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. But, on second thoughts, it was decided that the Indian delegation would continue negotiations till the end, sources said, requesting anonymity.

The delegation, the sources added, has been instructed to make it clear that India will not endorse any CTBT, which is not comprehensive in scope and not linked to a time-bound nuclear-disarmament programme.

India believes that the proposed draft will make the CTBT "only a nuclear weapon test explosion treaty. This was not the CTBT that India had envisaged in 1954. This cannot be the CTBT that India can be expected to endorse."

Asked if they would support the present government if it did not sign the CTBT, the spokesmen of both the BJP and Congress replied in the affirmative. "We would be happy if the government protests against and does not endorse the CTBT," said senior BJP functionary K R Malkani. "Our manifesto talks of the same thing," said Congress joint secretary Major Ved Prakash.

However, sources say the decision of not endorsing the CTBT will be a major departure from the past policy since it implies the explicit linkage between Indian security and the CTBT for the first time.

The Indian team at Geneva is likely to make it amply clear that "there is an overwhelming feeling in the country that it cannot accept discriminatory and flawed treaties that would jeopardise India's basic disarmament and security concerns."

Many quarters in the country have been demanding that India go nuclear. A senior army official says, "In view of the US ignoring Chinese supply of nuclear and missile technology to Pakistan there is no option for India but to develop and test nuclear weapons."

The UF government, according to sources, will make it clear that despite exercising exemplary restraint on nuclear option after demonstrating its capability, "the government remains alert to the security situation and will take all necessary steps designed to cope with such threat perceptions."

Like its predecessor, the Deve Gowda government will maintain that the proposed CTBT "only seeks to deny technological refinement to some countries whilst allowing some to continue such technological refinement in laboratories. It is this inequality of approach that robs the treaty of its true essence" sources said.

But unlike its predecessor, this government is not going to underplay "that India will continue to retain its

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nuclear option till universal nuclear disarmament is achieved and that the CTBT does not satisfy our own security concerns," they pointed out.

However, pro-CTBT activists like Praful Bidwai and Achin Vanaik in their co- authored monograph titled Testing Times: The Global Stake in a Nuclear Test Ban argue that "not signing the CTBT is an easy but a bogus option."

India: Former Minister Blasts 'Loopholes' in CTBT

BK2006060396 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 19 Jun 96 p 9

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India should mobilise world opinion on the inadequacy of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) currently being negotiated in Geneva as it has too many loopholes to curb global disarmament, according to former External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

The CTBT, in its present format, is not comprehensive in its scope in preventing nuclear weapons and leaves "large loopholes" for existing nuclear weapon states to refine their arsenals, said Mukherjee in a statement released here.

Exhorting India to be "persistent" in its efforts to renew the current disarmament negotiations and direct its thrust towards a nuclear weapon-free world, the Congress leader said the CTBT imposes no limits in the use of nuclear technology by nuclear weapon states and merely prevents the horizontal proliferation of such technology.

With the Deve Gowda Government in the midst of consultations with all political parties to arrive at a consensus decision on India's stand at the CTBT conference, Mukherjee's statement can be taken to reflect the view of his party.

The Gowda Government should take into account the traditional principles of India's disarmament policy and factors concerning national security while making a decision with regard to the treaty, Mukherjee said.

If treaty negotiations have fallen short of the expectations and aspirations of the world community, the onus for this squarely fell on the nuclear weapon states, he asserted. These nations had missed a historic opportunity of ridding the world of the menace of nuclear weapons, he added.

The CTBT in its present form negated the principles of world disarmament that India had steadfastly supported and consistently pursued over the last half a century, he said.

India, which had been constructively engaged in the CTBT negotiations, should use its utmost to shape it as a far-reaching disarmament measure through which a step-by-step process could be initiated leading to elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework, he added

India: BJP Leader Assails 'Nuclear Apartheid' of 'White Powers'

BK2006052396 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 19 Jun 96 p 7

[Report by J.B. Sinha]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lashing out at the United States of America (USA) for "purposefully ignoring" Pakistan's growing access to nuclear and missile power, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader and Lok Sabha member, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi has warned the UF [United Front] Government at the Centre against succumbing in any manner to the "nuclear apartheid" sought to be imposed by the "nuclear-rich white powers" on the rest of the world.

Addressing newspersons in his constituency on Tuesday, [18 June] Dr Joshi, who was the Home Minister in the short-lived BJP Government at the Centre, said that pressures were being mounted on India by the nuclear powers to drop its nuclear options and sign the Complete Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the deadline for doing which was June 28.

"Signing the CTBT would prove disastrous to the defence of India," Dr Joshi cautioned and said that the country's defence interests could in no case be allowed to be compromised under pressures from the world's nuclear powers.

"We would want the UF Government to respond effectively to the threat posed by Pakistan which has deployed missiles targetting India. India too, must deploy forthwith its Prithvi missile targetting Pakistan, and also take steps for developing Agni missiles to counter the 'grave threats' from across the borders," Dr Joshi emphasised.

Since the conference on the CTBT is currently on and India has to take a decision by June 28 on whether it would sign the treaty, he said, the UF Government must make its stand on the issue known to the people.

It was quite "irrational" for the nuclear powers to advance the plea that while they should be allowed to stockpile nuclear weapons at their sweet will, others should desist from doing so. It is a "conspiracy" on the part of the big five "white powers" to keeping the rest of the world "under their thumb", Dr Joshi remarked.

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The only way in which India can respond to this policy of "nuclear apartheid", he said, was to strengthen its missile and nuclear technology.

"However, looking at the way the UF Government in Delhi has decided to toe the line of the Congress in respect of the economic policy, it raises apprehensions that the present rulers in Delhi would pursue a lack-adaisical policy in respect of the nation's defence also," the BJP leader felt.

Attacking as "strange" the US policy towards the nuclear programme of Pakistan, Dr Joshi said, on the one hand the USA has waived certain restrictions imposed by the Pressler Amendment and resumed supply of hardware and arms to Pakistan.

India: Government To Extend President's Rule in Kashmir

BK1906161996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union home secretary, Mr. N. Padmanabhaiah, has said the center is going ahead with a six-month extension of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir. President's rule in the state expires on the 17th of next month. Mr. Padmanabhaiah told PTI that there is no option but to extend president's rule in the state as the minimum statutory period of 30-35 days for holding assembly elections is not available. He said the government is keen to hold the assembly elections in the state as early as possible.

A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Awami League met the union home secretary, Mr. K. Padamanabhaiah, in New Delhi today. During the meeting, the leaders of the Awami League assured Mr. Padamanabhaiah that they will extend full cooperation to the government for restoratqon of peace in the state.

The state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded effective steps to curb militancy in Jammu and Kashmir before holding assembly elections.

India: Troops Reportedly Raid Kashmir Leader Shah's House

BK1706151196 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Srinagar, BSF [Border Security Force] personnel raided the house and office of a prominent Hurriyat Conference leader, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, and tortured the inmates of the house. Five political workers were rounded up from Shabbir Ahmad Shah's office. They were subjected to severe torture at an interrogation center for three hours. They were later released in critical condition. Shabbir Ahmad Shah was not present at the time of the raid as he had gone to Jammu.

In Hindwara, troops subjected the people to severe physical punishment and blasted a mosque and a number of houses after they suffered losses in a six- hour shoot out with mojahedin. Five soldiers were killed and two mojahedin martyred in the exchange of fire.

India: Janata Dal Committee Endorses Party Leader's Expulsion

BK1606100996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Janata Dal Political Affairs Committee [PAC] has unanimously endorsed the expulsion of Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde on charges of antiparty activities. The committee, which met in New Delhi last evening, reviewed the action taken by the Dal president, Mr. Lalu Parasad Yadav, and endorsed it.

Later, briefing newspersons, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said the committee took the decision after it became evident that the efforts at reconciliation undertaken by the Karnataka chief minister, Mr. J.H. Patel, have failed. Mr. Reddy said that one or two senior party leaders were of the view that Mr. Hegde should have been served with a notice before being expelled. Mr. Reddy also stated that the PAC was of the opinion that the expulsion of Mr. Hegde will not have any significant consequence in Karnataka.

Iran

Iran: Larijani Opposes U.S. Interference in UN's Top Post

LD1906223196 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Jun 96 p 1

[Lead article by Mohammad Javad Larijani, Majles deputy and chairman of the Majles Foreign Relations Committee: "United Nations in Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the last few weeks the U.S. press and other media have launched extensive attacks against UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. These criticisms together with rumors about his replacement reached their peak when Irish President Mary Robinson visited the White House and confirmed the seriousness of the discussions about the replacement of the [UN] secretary-general, and that Washington has nominated her for the above-mentioned post. Mr. Clinton too has more than implicitly expressed his approval and preference. What is going on? How come with all his sincere services Mr. Butrus-Ghali has not been able to satisfy Washington?

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Mr. Butrus-Ghali's five-year term in office will end during the month of Azar in the current year [month beginning 21 November]. Therefore, the issue of the selection of the [new] UN secretary-general has been put on the agenda. But Washington's dissatisfaction with Mr. Butrus-Ghali — if it ever existed — was not in the open. The attacks by the U.S. media and its politicians [against Butrus-Ghali] began when the UN secretary-general published his report on the crimes committed by the Zionists in Qana in which the possibility that the attack might have been deliberate was taken seriously! The report — which was the most "wishy-washy" possible report in the face of blatant and extensive atrocities committed by the Zionist regime — was enough to raise a synchronized hue and cry by the U.S. loud-hailers [U.S. media] saying: "The UN secretary-general is stubborn, is weak in management, is anti-Israeli, and has European tendencies."

It is not new that a few Zionists have taken the 250 million-nation of America hostage, practically forcing Washington politicians to behave abjectly on the world scene. It is also not new that the Zionists control the whole of the U.S. media. [passage omitted]

What is happening? Since the collapse of the Soviet empire, U.S. statesmen have been caught in the web of a false and dangerous idea that "world domination is at hand." The American model for pursuing this policy is the domination of the world by a group of Western countries as a club, with America at its head. According to the U.S. politicians, the United Nations should change its structure in order to eventually be able to help the creation of such a global ruling system, and thus legitimize its world domination. That is what America wants from a UN secretary-general, and Washington prefers whoever can better satisfy these needs.

What should be done? Washington's domination of the world is a dangerous dream and no opportunity should be missed in confronting it. The ugly and stubborn action taken by America against Butrus-Ghali is a clear insult to all countries. Mr. Butrus-Ghali has certainly not been that hot, and his performance has not been much either, but what is important is that the White House should not play about with his post. The European countries should adopt a stance against Washington. So far, France has officially and explicitly expressed its opposition. In my opinion, the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, Asian and Arab countries, as well as the member countries of the [Organization of] Islamic Conference should declare their opposition to this U.S. measure. They should also encourage Butrus-Ghali to continue in his post. A United Nations that America opposes will face financial problems, but it is by far better than a disgraceful body that would be the Zionists' lackey.

Iran: Spokesman Condemns U.S. Bill on Companies Dealing With Iran

LD2006104196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry has described a bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives to punish foreign companies that are dealing in Iran's gas and oil as a monopolistic measure aimed at limiting and controlling the multinational companies.

Mr. [Mahmud] Mohammadi accused the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. foreign policy of adopting a reactionary tendency for its own economic self interest to the extent of confronting international trade laws and regulations. He added: Seeking revenge from the foreign companies dealing with Iran has no meaning other than to push these companies away from the scene of economic rivalry.

Referring to the fact that the United States is moving against international free trade and economic currents and international laws, he added: The United States intends to bring under its own monopoly and domination the investments in oil and gas industries in the world and use it as a factor of power and authority against the important world consumers.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman referred to the experience over the last year since the declaration by Clinton and the U.S. Senate of an economic embargo against Iran. He added: International policy and economy is based on science and one cannot confront them with intimidation and embargo.

The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday approved a bill on punishing foreign companies investing in Iran and Libya's oil industries. The U.S. efforts are taking place at a time when the European Union and Canada have strongly warned Washington and threatened that they will take reciprocal action against the United States.

Iran: Article Reviews 'Pressure' on Clinton Over Iran Bill

LD1906221696 Tehran IRAN in Persian 17 June 96 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Where Will He Go?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An American Congress committee recently adopted a new bill against Iran that is scheduled for a vote in the Congress. According to

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this bill, Clinton will have to implement severe restrictions against non-American companies that have dealings with Iran.

A Clinton spokesman has declared the U.S. Administration's support for this Congress bill, saying that the move is commensurate with its positions!

This time round, the Democrat U.S. Administration, which has gained nothing from its earlier anti-Iran sanctions, will be faced with two obstacles. The first obstacle will be the objections by Western governments and companies who assess any immature, bullying move by the Americans to be unprincipled and far from the sphere of trade laws and free trade economy. Clinton's second problem will be the American business community, which has a foreign investment of $600 billion that will be threatened by any precipitate decision.

American investors and businessmen are quite aware that retaliatory action by the Europeans against unsound moves by Washington politicians will open up a venue for negative competition and economic confrontation, where the main losers will be American companies and investors.

On the other hand, the threats made by America's traditional allies, concerning defensive and retaliatory measures, are a warning bell whose seriousness is in no doubt by Clinton's team and its Zionist advisers!

The Americans' insincere moves and showy actions will fail to divert from the truth the opinion of men in the economic sphere and political circles. No one is willing to take such a big gamble along with Clinton.

Therefore, the bill, which is the result of the efforts by the U.S.-Israel affairs committee, has no advocates and publicists but the Zionists themselves.

The U.S. business community is fully aware that the Democratic party and Clinton's team are but a few steps from leaving the White House. Therefore, the stand by U.S. traditional allies as well as U.S. commercial firms will pressure Clinton to veto or reform the Congress's unsuccessful bill. This will be an unforgettable test for the young Clinton and the U.S. Democratic Party.

Iran: British European MP Calls For More Dialogue With Iran

LD1906113296 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, 19 Jun (IRNA) — British Member of the European Parliament, Bryan Cassidy, supports a more open dialog with Iran and is pleased about the possibility of a forthcoming visit to Tehran by a delegation of UK MPs.

He also hopes to follow up an exchange visit being arranged between women members of the Iranian Majlis and their counterparts in the Strasbourg-based parliament.

Cassidy himself has just returned with two colleagues from Britain's ruling conservative party from a three-day trip to Tehran, which he described as "very interesting."

He told IRNA that he favored an expansion of parliamentary ties between Iran and the European Union [EU] and wanted to see more of a dialog that was "more frank and critical."

He said that he had heard reports blaming Britain for blocking EU efforts to normalize ties, but rejected suggestions that the UK government had hardened its attitude towards Iran in the last year in line with Israeli and U.S. propaganda campaigns.

Iran: Daily Criticizes British 'Interference' in Gulf States

LD1806132196 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Jun 96 p 16

[Unattributed political commentary: "What Mr. Green Should Know"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Andrew Green, the British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, accused the Islamic Republic of Iran, Monday, [11 June] of encouraging unrest in Bahrain and taking steps to destabilize the Persian Gulf region.

At a news conference during which an official translator was translating the ambassador's comments into Arabic, he also said that it is not surprising that Iran is interfering in Bahrain because its aim is to create instability in the Persian Gulf region.

He expressed his country's full support for the Bahraini Government and said that the European countries and the countries in the region must confront Iran's interference.

This is not the first time that the British ambassador has made impudent judgments on topics which are nothing to do with him or his relevant government. He has also made such false remarks in the past.

The British ambassador, like his other counterparts in the region, who lacks diplomatic etiquette and the intelligence to make a judgment on political issues, is accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of making efforts to destabilize the region at a time when for the past 17 years the Islamic Iran has always centered a part of its efforts and energy on foiling the divisive efforts of

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hostile, impudent, and aggressive powers such as Britain and the United States.

Today there is no country in the region which has not witnessed clear signs of efforts by London's rulers to create divisiveness, separation, and political disunity among the countries in the region, and there is no country which has not experienced the hostile approach by the British establishment [Darbar] to undermine regional stability and security.

If no one else knows the reality behind the developments in the Persian Gulf in general, and about the Bahraini problem in particular, British ambassadors and their country at least know what a filthy record of sedition the rulers of that country have in the region.

The fact is that the Bahraini problem has internal roots and this is stated by the majority of impartial European circles and even by a number of British mass media. Mr. Green intentionally turned his eyes away from this fact. Relating the country's crisis to foreign sources will not resolve any problem for the rulers of Manama and their British masters. [passage omitted]

If we were to consider that a foreign government is involved in intensifying the crisis in this shaykhdom, then we must name London at the top of the list. It was four months ago when the INDEPENDENT daily reported that the main factor of intensification of internal crisis in Bahrain was a British general, Ian Stuart Henderson. [passage omitted]

The article in the INDEPENDENT is one of the dozen reasons that show the extent of British military or political involvement in intensifying the crisis in this small and turbulent shaykhdom. They often play a key and determining role in the military, security, and law enforcement apparatus of Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries. They assist governments to suppress people and if necessary make efforts to strain relations between shaykhdoms in the region and the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to prepare the ground for the sale of their weapons to shaykhs in the Persian Gulf region.

The fact is that the situation in the Persian Gulf region was normal until Britain, the United States, and their allies began their obvious interference in the region. The result of their military and political interference and their destructive cultural and information activities coupled with their adventurism is lawlessness, anarchy, discord, and instability in the region.

Basically, the discord in the Persian Gulf region has its origin in Europe and America. Therefore, a regime which is one of the main founders and causes of instability in the region does not have the right to make a judgment about political issues in the region. The comments by the British ambassador are merely obvious interference in the internal affairs of Iran. Mr. Green should know that the opinion of the general public in Iran is scornful of the British and the Americans, and in the past 17 years a new generation has grown up in Iran with this scorn and aversion. This scorn is the result of a thick file full of filth and maliciousness that exist in their ties with Iran.

Iran: Paper Analyzes Turkish-Israeli Relationship

LD1506175996 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12 Jun 96 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "Ankara Will Also Be Harmed as a Result of Having Relations With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ezer Weizman, the president of the Zionist regime, left for Turkey yesterday to discuss ways of implementing the military agreement between that regime and the Ankara government. Yesterday, Turkish officials tried to suggest that the purpose of Weizman's visit to that country was to take part in an economic conference, thereby reducing the importance of the trip. This ploy was in continuation of Turkey's previous propaganda policy of hiding the dimensions of the ugly and unjustifiable agreement with the criminal Israeli regime. The Turkish Government signed an agreement with Israel last month, on the basis of which the Zionist regime's fighter planes can use Turkish airspace and land at that country's airports.

The signing of this agreement aroused such public anger inside and outside Turkey that both the Turkish defense minister and prime minister separately admitted its harmfulness and even spoke of cancelling it.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel also survived an assassination attempt related to this. His assailant was a Muslim who was protesting against the alliance between the Ankara government and the Zionist regime.

Nevertheless, Ezer Weizman's visit to Turkey, which was described by the press in Tel Aviv as being aimed at consolidating military cooperation and was received in silence by the Turkish press, revealed that the laics support the expansion of cooperation with usurper Israel and that there is a kind of conflict of opinion among the officials of the Ankara regime regarding this issue, a conflict that can be seen clearly in the confirmations and denials in the press by the Turkish defense minister and prime minister.

It seems as if the political/publicity reaction to Weizman's visit to Turkey bothers Turkish officials more than the other dimensions of this trip. For this reason, the Zionists and, even more, the Turks are trying

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to move, with minimum publicity, towards expanding covert political, economic, and cultural bilateral cooperation.

Political relations between the two governments ruling over Turkey and occupied Palestine have been growing steadily under the influence of several factors. The strategic political coordination and solidarity between the United States and Israel throughout the ups and downs in the region is the main factor behind the expansion of cooperation between Ankara and Tel Aviv, and exchanges of visits by senior officials of these two governments have also played a significant part in the growth of relations.

Events regarding the oil war during 1990-91 were, in fact, the start of a new political closeness and rapprochement between Israel and Turkey. Both the laic politicians in the Turkish ruling system and Zionist officials see the political alliance between Tel Aviv and Ankara as a way of strengthening their brittle political front in the Middle East and are, therefore, quite attached to it. They are strengthening their front, in particular, because of desperation and confusion among Arabs today following the election of Netanyahu in occupied Palestine. Ankara is especially keen to play the role of mediator in the current crisis of relations between Tel Aviv and the Arab regimes of the region. This is a policy that will not help the Turks achieve their desired end; rather, relations with today's Zionism have become a negative indicator and the appeal or lack of appeal and the service or treachery of governments are revealed by this indicator. For this reason, no government will emerge as the winner in expanding relations with usurper Israel. The failure and disgrace of the governments that have tried to outdo each other during the past five years in establishing relations with Israel, and which have nothing to show for it other than disgrace and humiliation, testify to this fact.

Iran: Paper Comments on Middle East Developments

LD1606193796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Jun 96 p 1, 16

[Unattributed commentary: "War Against Nations for Peace With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The coming to power of the warmongering Likud government has disturbed the dreams of the Arab compromisers and painted gloomy prospects for their future. In the midst of this, those who have invested the most feel the greatest sense of despair and defeat.

Thus, the rightfulness of the Islamic Republic of Iran's strong and well-reasoned position regarding the process of compromise between the Arabs and Israel has been proven once again, and everyone has seen that talks and compromise with occupiers are not only not a solution to the Palestinian problem or a suitable way of ending the suffering of the Palestinians, but also a further complication of the situation.

In the meantime, Mubarak has entered the arena and is trying to "ride the waves" and exploit the current crisis. The Cairo regime is hoping to be seen as an agent of Arab unity and prove, both to the Arabs and the Zionists, that only it can be the "link between the Arabs and Israel." However, the problem is that even Mubarak is only thinking of his own problems and needs, and he is only hoping to win something for himself. The heads of the Cairo regime, naturally, know better than anyone else that the mirage of peace with Israel has not brought anything but disgrace for Egypt. The other Arab regimes have also not gained anything from this shameful game. Nevertheless, Mubarak does not have the courage to admit these things frankly and acknowledge officially the uselessness of the compromise talks and the hollowness of compromise with occupiers.

Mubarak has invited Arab leaders to Cairo to discuss and make decisions about something that he describes as a unified Arab position towards Israel. This call to unity comes from a regime that has consistently been a symbol of unilateral behavior in the interests of Israel and which has the task today of forcing everyone into collective treachery. Mubarak has never been willing to summarize the shameful results of the Camp David Accord for Egypt and the Arabs, and he is not willing to present a report at the Arab summit in Cairo about the disgraceful and humiliating outcome of Camp David.

Let us not forget that the main mission of the Cairo regime is concentrated on Damascus. Mubarak is very angry that the Syrians have not wished to repeat the bitter experience of Camp David, and he is worried lest the process of compromise become deadlocked once and for all in view of the developments in occupied Palestine and the election of the Likud faction.

This was precisely why Mubarak was insisting that a meeting should take place in Damascus and that its closing statement should definitely include compromise with Israel. The Cairo regime was in desperate need of such a statement to consolidate his position with the Zionists and he will naturally try to make it seem as if Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials listen to the Cairo regime. Proving this point is extremely important to Mubarak's wish to show himself to be "the missing

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link." This is why, nowadays, Cairo is very keen on gathering the largest number of Arab leaders under one roof at any price so that Mubarak's role as host can be projected as a role as the coordinator of the Arabs' position.

This is at a time when everyone knows how this shameful game will end and, even if the Cairo regime does manage to achieve a unified Arab position towards the Zionist occupiers, it is amply clear that Mubarak and all the people who go to Cairo at his invitation will not achieve any important agreement ensuring the interests of Arabs and Palestinians. The reason is perfectly clear. It is: The growing distance between Arab regimes and Arab nations that is even leading to open hostility by these regimes against their people these days.

It is a bitter truth, but true nevertheless, that, among the Zionists, they have managed to present a popular image of their warmongering; they are trying to give a democratic appearance to the warmongering Likud faction's popular election; and they are trying to pretend as if this warmongering attitude is popular among the Zionists. However, among the Arabs, even their peace is unpopular and they are willing to fight their own people for the sake of peace with Israel.

This is the greatest difference between the Arab and Israeli sides: The supporters of peace with the occupiers have no popular roots and are, therefore, too small to be able to alter anything in the region to Israel's advantage. This is why the Cairo conference is doomed to failure even before it begins.

Iran: Bahrain Decentralization Aimed at Suppressing Unrest

LD1906164596 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jun 96 p 16

[Political commentary by "Majid Tavalla": "Division of Bahrain Into Four States"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The latest news from Bahrain says that Bahraini Amir 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has issued a decree dividing the country into four governorates. Each includes one or several regions. They consist of Manama — the capital — Northern Muharraq, Northeast Muharraq, and Southern Muharraq.

On the basis of the decree, the interior minister will implement the plan [of division] and the prime minister will appoint and dismiss the governors, whose mission is to try to work for urban social and economic expansion of the regions.

When the rulers of an island with a population of 500,000 and an area that hardly reaches 700 sq km, take such measures, it is obvious that they have other considerations which are more important then those announced.

The fact remains that unrest has increased in Bahrain, and Manama intends to find a solution to confront it. These measures are being taken to decentralize the population in order to suppress the unrest in a better way. So far none of the measures that have been taken by the Manama government have reduced the crisis in Manama, but they have made the situation more serious. The following are a number of measures taken by the government:

Creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation in the country including arrest, torture, and expulsion of opposition groups. According to statistics published by the France Liberte foundation, 1,106 are imprisoned in that country. Considering the small population of the country, the figure is very high.

Imposing strict security measures on the basis of which the interior minister has been given authority to detain anyone without any reason for up to three years.

Deploying foreign soldiers and forces in the country (especially from Saudi Arabia and Britain). [passage omitted]

Forming a high Islamic affairs council, the duty of which is to act as an umbrella to cover mosque preachers and issue necessary instructions about religious matters. In this way all religious activities of Muslims in mosques have come under strict supervision of the security forces and speeches by the imams of mosques are being controlled.

Strengthening the military capability by purchasing advanced equipment from Western countries, including the United States and Britain. The use of this equipment by the police during the outbreak of unrest.

The above cases are among a series of measures adopted by the rulers of Manama to confront the current unrest in the country. They show the extent of measures to suppress unrest in Bahrain, a country whose Shiite population is 85 percent and whose government is in the hands of the remaining 15 percent.

The problem of Bahrain is not economic or anything else. Its problem is the lack of power legitimacy in Bahrain. Therefore, the outbreak of recent unrest has been a natural and unavoidable matter.

The Manama regime, which every now and than accuses Iran of interfering in its internal affairs in order to please the Western countries, especially the United States, must think about its internal issues more realistically and pay more attention to realities.

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Iran: Larijani, Russian Envoy Discuss Expansion of Ties

LD1806212596 Tehran IRNA in English 2106 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA - Russian Ambassdor to Tehran Sergey Tretyakov conferred with the deputy chairman of the Majles foreign policy commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani here on Tuesday [18 June] and briefed him on the recent developments in Russia including the presidential elections underway in that country.

Larijani stressed on expansion of mutual relations, especially the upgrading of parliamentarian relations within the framework of the joint friendship groups, and said that officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran wish for the prosperity and bliss of the Russian people and respect the people's vote in the elections.

He said given Tehran-Moscow mutual interests, the existing potentials should be used for deepening and expanding cooperation in all political, technical and scientific fields.

Larijani added that the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to see an independent and stable Russia capable of playing its specific role in global stability.

The Russian ambassador also stressed on expansion of parliamentarian relations between the two countries and said that further strengthening of such ties calls for providing of necessary grounds for exchange of parliamentarian delegations.

He said that Larijani during his forthcoming visit to Moscow for the international scientific conference on information and education, will have the opportunity to exchange views with members of the Russian parliamentary and Foreign Ministry officials.

Tretyakov added that all government authorities in Russia are in favour of expansion of relations with Iran, and disclosed that there are no two opinions in this among the Russian officials. The two officials also called for expansion of regional cooperation in the Middle East and Persian Gulf.

Iran: AKHBAR Editorial Views Russian Presidential Election

LD1806135896 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 15 Jun 96 p2

[Unattributed editorial: "Moscow Nights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As far as the recording of history is concerned, especially in the 20th Century, Russia enjoys a particularly prominent role: A country that established a state based on a political theory, became a superpower and, then, discovering its mistake at the height of its power, did away with its 70-year-old system. From 1917 onward, Russia has played a serious role in all international exchanges and has even determined the role played by others.

Boris Yeltsin is an actor whose role in the removal of the Iron Curtain grew to the level of director, and now this director is asking for the people's vote. Predicting the outcome of these elections, which have even driven Yeltsin to the point of dancing, is difficult for one obvious reason: There is no reference point for the determination of the social stratification of Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Without a doubt, for the urban strata, the presence of Yeltsin and the actions taken by him have provided an opportunity for them to distance themselves from a totalitarian system and to experience a kind of popular government. However, this opportunity has not brought any prospects in terms of economic stability or job security for the people. In addition to this, during this time, the Russians have been transformed into a nation that is a recipient of Western aid, especially from the United States.

In such circumstances, two classes will become the determining factors in the outcome of the election: The army and farmers. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, these two classes have lost their political position and economic strength. For this reason, today, General Lebed and Zyuganov are looking for votes among the army and the rural population. In this way, the Russian election is once again revealing the determining role played by middle classes in political-social equations. If Yeltsin can create a breach in the votes of these two strata, he will achieve victory over his rivals. In this same way, if Zyuganov gains the votes of cities, he will drive Yeltsin out of the Kremlin.

The other dimension of this election is the West's view of Russia. Although many believe that the West prefers Yeltsin, it must not be forgotten that, from the West's point of view, today's Russia is not yesterday's Soviet Union. Therefore, the establishment of stability will be the basis of the West's choice regarding Russia. In this way, there is no reason why the events that led to the return of the new left in Eastern Europe should not be repeated in Russia. This is why the assessment of the Russian election and its consequences domestically have gained greater importance for the West, especially since the start of the bloody war in Chechnya.

On this point, there is some difference of opinion between the United States and Europe. Yeltsin has, against the wishes of the United States, not hidden his European tendencies; whereas, if the left-wingers have

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not shown any inclination towards the United States, they are unlikely to seek excessive closeness to Europe. Since 1917, the Russians have disturbed the calm in Europe;but, for the Americans, they have been a rival that has given them [the Americans] a chance to be present in Europe.

Moscow has spent recent days and nights in the heat and excitement of campaign concerts, but it will be the Russian people as a whole who will, with their votes, also determine the new political line-up in the West.

Iran: Paper Views Failure of Kandahar Meeting, Possible Zahir Shah Return

LD1806181396 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 13 Jun 96 p 12

[Article by M. Molahzehi: "Failure of the Kandahar Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Kandahar meeting which was held at the invitation of the Taleban and with the participation of a number of leaders of Afghan groups concluded with no clear result. The session was attended by Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Pir Sayed Ahmad Gaylani, Mohammad Yunus Khales, and a number of other leaders and those involved in the Afghan issue.

The aim of the session was to form a united front against the government of Borhanoddin Rabbani and against an agreement signed between Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society]. Therefore, the failure of the Kandahar meeting regarding future developments in Afghanistan was significant. The lack of an agreement between leaders of the Afghan group will have important consequences because it has further isolated the Taleban. The redeployment of the Taleban and their efforts to intensify their clashes with the government forces have contributed to their isolation. However, it should be noted that, following the agreement reached between Rabbani and Hekmatyar, the balance of forces in Afghanistan's internal conflict is changing.

On the other hand, it is accepted in Afghanistan that a military solution to the conflict has reached a final deadlock and no side is capable of eliminating the other side militarily. Therefore, peace talks are the only solution. [passage omitted]

At the same time, one cannot imagine that the Taleban group will lose hope completely because the Afghan leaders who gathered in Kandahar did not pay any attention to them. The Taleban group will try to intensify the war, and in this way they will express their unhappiness about the failure of the Kandahar meeting and will take measures through their allies in Pakistan to find friends among the Afghan groups. The fact is that following the Rabbani-Hekmatyar agreement a certain new factional structure has been formed in Afghanistan which is based on the ideology and political tendency of various factions. [passage omitted]

Alongside this change in Afghanistan, the Americans have raised the issue of the return of Mohammad Zahir Shah [former king] to Afghanistan as a force to balance power in Afghanistan. Apparently the idea exists in the United States that Zahir Shah is an individual who can unite all parties concerned in the power struggle in Afghanistan. This is an idea which cannot easily be substantiated. However, the fact that the idea has been put forward by the U.S. Congress is not unexpected. If the Afghan groups do not reach an agreement and continue the war in Afghanistan for an indefinite period, Zahir Shah will assume a role similar to the historic role of Nadir Shah [Zahir Shah's father], who emerged as the liberator of Afghanistan with the backing of foreign powers and with the support of Pashtun tribes and overthrew the Tajik government of Habibollah known as the "son of the water carrier." This time round presumably the United States will replace Britain.

Anyway, if the Afghan groups which successfully implemented a jihad were enabled to form a lasting government in Kabul and still continue the fighting on bases of power struggle, Zahir Shah will find an oppurtunity to return to power, and this means erasing all struggle and blood shed for the independence of Afghanistan.

Iran: U.S. 'Main Cause of Bloodshed in Afghanistan'

LD1906170796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jun 96 p

[Editorial: "The United States is the Main Cause of Bloodshed in Afghanistan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The bitter experience of the last four years shows that the Afghan civil war has no military solution and no group can emerge triumphant by merely resorting to military might. Nonetheless, one should not forget the role played by some sinister hands in Afghanistan; that is to say, the direct and indirect intervention of the United States and its allies in Afghan political affairs.

Everyone remembers what happened in the war-ravaged land of Afghanistan after the formation of the ominous triangle of the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. Everyone can recall that subsequently, a number of evil

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plans were carried out with the aim of pitting the Afghan jihadi groups against each other. These plans were all devised by the United States, funded by Saudi Arabia, and then implemented through the logistic support of Pakistan.

The Taleban group, which has been subjecting Kabul to violent attacks in a bid to attain absolute power, was the most abominable fruit of the collusion between these three regimes. Of course, one must not overlook the direct role of the Pakistani Army, which tried to pave the way for the Taleban's acquisition of power. However, today, the Taleban is a burnt-out force with an expired sell-by date and devoid of any future prospects whatsoever.

But does this mean the end of conspiracies in Afghanistan? The existing evidence indicates that if the jihadi groups do not employ all their means to grasp the present realities and deal with the existing problems in their country, then one can be certain that even the total annihilation of the Taleban will not herald an end to Afghanistan's conspiratorial civil war.

At present, a group of Taleban delegates are in the United States to hold talks about further mischievous missions aimed at intensifying the Afghan civil war once again. In other words, it is clear that Washington is still being tempted to wage conspiracies in Afghanistan, hoping that a sustained civil war may lead to the total destruction of all the weapons that it once gave to the jihadi groups.

Therefore the jihadi groups, and even the leaders of the Taleban group, should not imagine that U.S. support means that it is really keen to see them in power. The issue is crystal clear here. On the one hand, Washington wants to sustain the civil war to destroy all the existing weapons in Afghanistan. On the other hand, the United States wishes to say that the experience of establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan has failed. Washington wants to create such a tense and insecure atmosphere in Afghanistan that no other nation will ever contemplate having an Islamic state.

Of course, the criminal military confrontation between the armed groups in Afghanistan has nothing to do with Islam. However, the arrogant propaganda organs seek to encourage people to ignore the role of foreign forces in Afghanistan and introduce Islam as the main factor responsible for the present deadlock in that country.

Nonetheless, the present course of events is such that the mischievous and inhumane role of the United States in the Afghan tragedy has become so clear that it cannot be overlooked or denied.

The United States is the main cause of bloodshed in Afghanistan and as long as the jihadi groups fail to reach a consensus about ways of severing the filthy hands of the United States, the Afghan civil war will linger on and the United States' temptation to wage new conspiracies will continue.

Iran: Editorial on Failure of Secularists in Azerbaijan

LD1706195196 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Jun 96 p 1

[Editorial by Heshmatollah Felahatpesheh: "Failure of the Secularists in Azerbaijan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It has been two months since members of Azerbaijan's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] were arrested. There is still no precise information about their fate.

It was reported a month ago that one of the Islamic Party's activists was tortured and killed by secularist security agents. It is possible that other members of the party, including its chairman and spokesman, might have faced a similar fate. The Muslims in this newly-independent republic, who have been freed recently from the suppression of communists, are now caught in the trap of secularist suppression. [passage omitted]

Heydar Aliyev, who was once a member of the Soviet Union Communist Party Central Council and one of the security activists of that party, knows well the principles of suppression. It seems that he only applies his experience of suppression to Shiites and Muslims.

After the approval of the constitution regarding an imported secularist system in Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev rejected a request by the leaders of the party to approve the charter and, instead, insisted that it was illegal. The suppression of Muslims on the eve of Muharram was intensified. In past years, especially during the past twelve months, the level of religious activities by the Islamic Party reached a peak, most noticeably during the mourning days of Lord of Martyrs [Imam Hosayn]. The political consideration of secularists, at this point in time, has made them adopt policies similar to those adopted by the Wahhabis [sect] in Pakistan.

On the other hand, before the wave of arrests began, the Islamic Party activists expressed their concern about the involvement of the United States, the Zionist regime, and Turkish ambassadors in provoking the government against the Islamic Party. It seems that sacrificing Muslims is one of the preconditions set by the interfering foreigners when they are dealing with Baku. At a time when those affiliated with the West — Zionists and secularists — are freely active

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in Azerbaijan, only the rights of Muslims have been undermined.

The representatives of human rights must follow the Azeri issues with special sensitivity. A demand made by Azerbaijanis in Vienna in this regard, is a real demand of the Azeri Muslims. The Muslims in this country need the moral support of the Islamic Ummah.

The Iranian people, especially the Muslim people living in Iran's Azeri inhabited cities cannot remain indifferent toward these transformations.

Iran: Azeri Activists Protest Detention, Torture of Leaders

LD1906225896 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jun 19 (IRNA) — An Azeri freedom fighter has been martyred under the detention torture system after the political opposition leaders of the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan were arrested, an Azeri freedom loving group announced in a statement issued here on Wednesday. [19 June]

According to the statement of 'Freeborn Azeris of Iran,' one political activist, Karbalaei Quliev, has been martyred and another one has lost his mental balance and has become psychologically ill as a result of continuous torture.

The group called on all of the freedom loving people of the world to condemn the government of Baku for its atrocious and inhuman acts which run against the accepted international norms of human rights.

Further, they asked the Azeri Vienna-based Human Right Activists to demand for the immediate release of political detainees in the torture and persecution cells of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Azeri group has also asked the Azeri human right activists in Vienna to address a letter to the United Nations Secretery General Butrus-Butrus Ghali officially petitioning the United Nations to dispatch the special UN human rights representative to Azerbaijan Republic to probe into the violation of human rights which resulted in the martyrdom of Quliev in the Azeri dungeons and torture cells.

The communique finally reads: "We warn the usurper goverment of Azerbaijan, of the revolutionary wrath of the sons of Sattar-Khan and Baqer-Khan (Azeri heroes), if the political leaders are not released."

Iran: Validity of Azerbaijani Oil Deal Questioned

NC2006095396 Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Jun 96 pp 2, 3

[Unattributed commentary: "Shah-Deniz and Our Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was reported yesterday that the contract for exploitation of the Shah-Deniz oilfield in the Caspian Sea between the Republic of Azerbaijan and a consortium comprised of six different companies, including an Iranian company, was signed in Baku. [Shah-Deniz oilfield, situated in the Caspian Sea 110 kms southeast of Baku city, has estimated reserves of 400 billion cubic meters of gas, 200 million tons of liquid gas, and 100 million tons of oil.]

In addition to Azerbaijan, and a private Iranian company, the five companies in this consortium are: British Petroleum of Britain, Statoil of Norway, LUKoil of Russia, France's Elf-Aquitane, and Turkey's oil company [TPAO].

The British Petroleum company and Statoil of Norway will each hold a share of 25.5 percent; The LUKoil company, Iran's OIEC [Oil Industries and Engineering Company] and the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic [SOCAR] will each will have a 10 percent share, and the Turkish oil company TPAO will hold a nine percent share in the consortium.

First, we should view foreign investment by Iranian companies as propitious and we hope that the volume and scale of Iran's foreign investment increases. In the past few decades, when the economies of countries were more intertwined with politics and oil was viewed as a political bargaining chip, governments approached the issue in a diplomatic manner; on occasion, adopting a "zigzagging" policy in their political stances.

With regard to the great oil consortium of Azerbaijan for the production and utilization of oil from three oilfields, namely Cheragh, Azeri, and Gonsheli, which have become the subject of frequent discourse in economic and political circles, Iran initially had only a five percent share in the consortium, along with other European and American companies. (Of course, one must admit that Iran's membership at that time was unofficial. Iran had become a member mainly on the recommendation of the Aliyev government.)

Our country's petroleum officials and diplomatic apparatus had not insisted on the definition of the Caspian Sea's legal status as the main prerequisite for the establishment of such a consortium, as they believed that Iran's membership in the Azerbaijan oil consortium would be definite and permanent.

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At a later stage when — as was quite predictable — the powers of arrogance displayed their hostility in this regard and annulled Iran's membership in the consortium, the issue of "defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea regime" was propounded by our petroleum officials and diplomatic apparatus. It was then repeatedly emphasized by our high-level officials in the oil and economic affairs ministries, as well as politicians, that until the legal regime of the Caspian Sea was defined, any kind of exploitation of its resources for production purposes would be unauthorized.

What is interesting is that when the Moscow administration's echelons also began insisting on this, the Iranian officials and press magnified the issue in order to lap up credit for their own benefit. Now that some months have elapsed, an Iranian oil company, which is ostensibly owned by the private sector, is participating in the new oil consortium in Shah Deniz and has become a member with a share of 10 percent.

The question that arises is: How is it that after only a few months, participation in another consortium — which will naturally include concomitant exploitation of the region's oil resources — has taken priority over the delineation of the Caspian Sea's legal regime? It seems that one of Iran's oil companies simply went to the table when the agreement was being signed and has, in practice, put the seal of endorsement on the exploitation and production of oil in the region.

Perhaps it could be said in response that this company (OIEC) is a private Iranian oil company. Are private Iranian oil companies not subject to the rules and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran? Are they not required to put national interests before all else in foreign deals? On the other hand, when the agreement for membership in the latest oil consortium was being signed, was there not a high-level Iranian petroleum ministry official also present at the venue?

Hence, can we therefore claim that a private Iranian company signed an agreement, in the presence of and with the approval of a government official, which conflicts with out national interests? If this is not so, then why is the aforementioned company being touted as "private" and why have officials thus detached themselves from the issue? The question remains that if the non-definition of the legal status of the Caspian Sea regime is detrimental to our national interests, why has this company — which is alleged to be affiliated with the official Iranian oil company — become a member in the consortium?

What has emerged in this regard is that the officials of our petroleum and foreign ministries have become afflicted with a sort of ignorance in their political and economic policies, and every few months they embark on tactics—without taking into account our national interests — which they are then forced to renege on later.

The zigzag course adopted in political and economic interests at this juncture is a normal practice in the world, but not to the extent that it creates contradictions in behavior. In the field of politics, in order to attain the desired logical objective, a change in tactics and even strategy is considered permissible, but how have we acted on the Caspian Sea issue?

There are certain issues before us now, and it would be advisable for the officials of the petroleum and foreign ministries to bear these in mind:

1. If it was believed that one day we intended to join the consortium, without taking into account the priority of defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea, there should not have been such extensive propaganda regarding the objections to the utilization of the regional resources of the Caspian Sea without first formulating its legal status.

2. The change in tactics without endeavoring to enlighten public opinion does not seem to be very logical and erodes communication between the administrative machinery and the people, if we should effect sudden changes without any regard to public opinion.

3. It appears that either the petroleum ministry is not interested in long-term national interests or is not being guided correctly by the foreign affairs ministry. Perhaps it is not concerned with providing clarifications.

For example, we entered the Caspian Sea oil consortium, in practice, without studying the possibilities, but merely on the basis of a verbal commitment from Aliyev. We signed the first agreement, which had not been validated as regards the substance and regulations of the consortium and we implemented the subsequent measures on that basis.

4. If the petroleum ministry intends to stress the definition of the Caspian Sea's legal regime, as Russia did, and on the other hand, it seeks to attain its economic interests by its participation in the consortium, then it has adopted a very incorrect way of explaining this to the public.

5. If our petroleum ministry is seeking to woo the Baku government, through a private company, for larger and strategic interests, and has accepted Aliyev's overtures and entered the Shah-Deniz consortium for that purpose, one should state that the Republic of Azerbaijan has proven its lack of goodwill in the past and its indifference to Iran's sensitivities and has even acted against our interests.

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6. One also needs an answer to the question: Which side of the balance is to our benefit? Participation in the consortium, and reaping the economic benefits thereby, or our country's national interests?

Are the economic benefits of participation in the consortium so massive that we have permitted them to eclipse defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea?

In any case, an oil company representing Iran has joined the consortium—without taking into consideration the interests of the littoral states of the Caspian Sea — which Iran had objected to earlier. Accordingly, as has been said, tactics can be changed at certain junctures in order to attain our main objectives, but it is extremely important to take into consideration the price that has to be paid for such a change in tactics!!

Iran: Commentary Views PRC Actions Toward Dalai Lama

LD1906212696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The CPC secretary in China's Sichuan Province blasted the Dalai Lama, the exiled leader of Tibet's Buddhists. On 18 June, Sichuan's CPC secretary published an article, claiming that the Dalai Lama and his supporters are seeking to revive the federal system in Tibet.

In 1959, when the Tibet rebellion was crushed, the leader of Tibet's Buddhists took asylum in India. The Dalai Lama is backed by the West, especially the United States, and constantly visits the Western countries to pressurize China. Beijing has seriously blasted Dalai Lama supporters several times for ignoring PRC sovereignty over Tibet.

Political experts believe that although the independent-seeking movement of Tibet's exiled leader, supported by the West, has a historical and internal background, it can be considered a kind of pressure by the West which can be interpreted within the framework of the policy of creating internal problems for China. Beijing has been trying for years to maintain China's sovereignty in different regions of this vast country.

Among Beijing's measures are its success in preparing the ground for reclaiming Hong Kong and trying to prevent Taiwan's leaders from accomplishing their independence plans. Tibet is another main issue concerning China's government, toward which Beijing is particularly sensitive. According to many international experts, there is no ground for the success of the Dalai Lama's fans for several times China has attacked the United States and the West for supporting Tibet's independence-seekers, considering these moves as a result of U.S. policies.

Undoubtedly, Beijing confronts many problems in reviving its historical land but it is noteworthy that Beijing's strategy toward Tibet's Buddhists has jeopardized the Dalai Lama's standing. The Dalai Lama takes advantage of Tibetan religious feelings, which are different from the whole of China, in order to provide political maneuvers for himself.

After years of exile, the Dalai Lama has been distanced from Tibet's domestic upheavals and this has posed problems for him. The Chinese officials' recent attacks on the Dalai Lama indicate the continuous efforts of China's central government to go on with Tibet's reforms in all fields, including the economic and cultural structures. Experts believe that the tendency of Tibet's people towards economic property and solving the problems are the most significant highlights of China's recent moves.

Iran: Rafsanjani Says Development, Revolution Inseparable

LD1906103796 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damavand, Tehran Prov., June 19, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday [19 June] stressed that in the Islamic Republic of Iran advancement, development and growth equal revolution and revolution means development.

Addressing a huge gathering of people of Damavand, northeast of Tehran, the president added that certain simple-minded and naive elements are of the notion that advancement and revolution contradict one another.

The president who was here to inaugurate several development projects added that in the course of the development careful attention must be paid as not to neglect religious traditions of the nation.

The aspirations of the late imam, the guidelines set by the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and the sacrifices made by the martyrs, the disabled and their families have all ensured the Islamic Revolution.

Pointing to the proximity of the region to Tehran, President Rafsanjani said that Damavand region because of the Damavand mountain and its beautiful nature and landscape as well as many projects which have either been completed or are nearing completion, could be turned into of the major tourist attraction centers of Iran.

The president called upon the local farmers to shift from the traditional method of irrigation to modern techniques

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in order to make optimum use of the water and land resources.

President Rafsanjani in his visit to Damavand is accompanied by the ministers of post, telegraph and telephone, agriculture and construction jihad.

Damavand telecommunication center was put into operation at the presence of President Rafsanjani. The center can be expanded up to 10,000 number.

Later, the president inspected a gas supply project in the town.

Iran: Nateq-Nuri Hopes 'Hezbollahi Culture' Will Grow Stronger

LD1806214796 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 18 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri told a group of female members of the basij (volunteers) of Tehran province here Tuesday [18 June] that the west exploits women for purposes that are below the natural and the divinely-ordained dignity of the feminine gender. He said the westerners do that in the name of freedom and equality and all too often they exploit women for economic and commercial purposes.

He said such practice had also become common in Iran during the pahlavi regime, but as a result of the triumph of the Islamic revolution women in the Iranian society regained their God-given status and their lost dignity. Nateq-Nuri said that women in Islamic Iran have casting off the disreputing [as received] cultural shackle on them and today they are better involved in political, economic, social, and cultural life and even in the defense and research affairs.

He expressed hope that the 'Hezbollahi culture' introduced by the basij in the Islamic republic would grow consistently stronger enough to ward off inroads of foreign cultures in Iranian society.

The speaker was critical of the approach to women issues by certain Muslim countries and said that such policies have been dictated by global arrogance against Islamic and religious values.

Iran: Esfahan University Prepares To Manufacture Submarine

LD1906163996 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by KEYHAN correspondent: "Esfahan Industrial University To Build Submarines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esfahan's Industrial [Technical] University has undertaken a major research project to manufacture submarines. Fifty percent of the research work of this project, named "Underwater Oasis" [Robat-e zirabi], has been completed.

Dr. Parsa, research deputy of the university, stated the above to a number of correspondents who had gone to the university to inspect the fruits of its research and technical projects. He added that the body of a submarine has been built. He said: The university has undertaken another project to manufacture a radar system named "National Radar."

Dr. Parsa went on: Our university has won a tender to manufacture high quality buoys for submarines. He said: The university has employed 750 researchers, which are currently working on 110 industrial projects and 140 theses on master of science research projects.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Ministers Speak on Kashmir, Karachi Problems

BK1906124196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has reaffirmed Pakistan's principled support to the Kashmiris struggle for attaining the right of self-determination. Answering a question by Syed Javed Ali Shah in the National Assembly today, the foreign minister said the solution of the dispute involves the United Nations, Pakistan, and India as well as the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In view of Indian intransigence, Pakistan has made concerted efforts to mobilize international pressure against India for the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions. Pakistan has also forcefully raised the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at all international fora.

The interior minister, Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar, said about 500 people were killed in Karachi since the present government took over. These included 268 policemen and 216 persons killed in police encounters. Answering a question by Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, he said judicial inquiries are going on into 128 cases of killings in Karachi. In reply to a question by Mian Ejaz Ahmad Shafi, the interior minister said cases of different types are pending or under investigation against nine members of the parliament. The food minister, Nawab Mohammad Yusuf Talpur, said the government has decided to import sugar from the cheaper source with the intention to bring down the prices of sugar at reasonable level.

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Pakistan: JKLF Advocates Idea of Independent Kashmir

BK2006061496 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Jun 96 p 6

[Article by Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front Chairman Amanullah Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Why JKLF Opposes Polls**

Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) State are officially scheduled to be held on June 30. Whereas other political parties are engaged in canvassing, the pro-independence Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) has started a vigorous campaign against the very elections. Its rallies held so far in over half a dozen towns in district headquarters of Azad Kashmir have been attracting huge, enthusiastic and slogan-chanting crowds who have also been listening to fiery speeches against these elections from JKLF leaders for 4 to 6 hours in each public meeting, and have been vowing to do everything possible but peacefully to see that these elections are not held. Rejection of nomination papers of over 40 candidates for refusing to vow to work for Kashmir's accession to Pakistan has added a new dimension to the issue and there have been negative comments on these rejections, in the world media, the BBC in particular.

On the face of it the JKLF campaign against elections in Azad Kashmir looks to be an undemocratic and fascist step. But the reasons behind this unusual looking step are based on Kashmiri nationalism and patriotism, fair play, democratic principles and on moral values. Let me elaborate: Since 1949 Kashmir (officially known as Jammu Kashmir State) remains forcibly divided into several parts with the bulk under the forced occupation of India and the rest (Gilgit-Baltistan) under direct and (AJK) indirect control of Pakistan. All Kashmiris, irrespective of their creed, region, language or political affiliation, want re-unification of the state, although they differ with each other about what the ultimate constitutional position of the state should be, with some wanting its accession to India, many more to Pakistan and the rest want it to emerge as a fully independent and sovereign state. Armed freedom struggle is going on in Indian-occupied part since 1988. Tens of thousands of Kashmiris have been killed and tens of thousands have been put behind the bars subjected to unimaginably inhuman physical and mental torture, thousands of women raped and gang-raped and property worth billions destroyed by over 600,000-strong Indian armed forces deployed there. Everyday one comes to know about the death of 5 to 20 Kashmiris at the hands of Indians and their agents and the process continues unabated.

With the above-mentioned state of affairs prevailing in Indian occupied part of their motherland, it was imperative for the political parties and leaders of AJK to pay full attention to the occupied area and to do all they could to help their countrymen in their struggle for their national emancipation. Instead, these political parties and the leaders are engaged in the luxury of elections spending hundreds of millions of rupees, besides their energy, time and talent. It is not at all befitting a people to spend their money, energy, time and talent on things like elections while their compatriots on the other side of the divide are passing through hell and are badly in need of financial, moral and practical help from them in order to keep the freedom movement in high spirits. The basics of Kashmiri patriotism call upon people in Azad Kashmir to spend all their surplus resources, energy and time on matters concerning the freedom struggle going on in the Indian-held part and not on electioneering which is aimed at just replacing some faces in the Azad Kashmir Assembly and may be in the government also, which is of far less importance as compared to the freedom movement. This apathy of the Azad Kashmiri leaders towards the freedom struggle can also disappoint people in Indian-held Kashmir against the leaders of Azad Kashmir which can ultimately damage the overall national interests of Kashmiris.

These are some of the main reasons why JKLF is opposed to the forthcoming assembly elections in Azad Kashmir and wants that all the money, time, energy and talent being expended on these elections be spent on the freedom struggle specially at a time when the movement is in danger of being crushed by India. To contest elections to the Azad Kashmir Assembly, one has to take an oath that one supports the accession of Jammu Kashmir State to Pakistan and that he would continue doing so. This is a gross violation of one's freedom of thought, a basic human right. To add to it, one cannot even exercise one's vote in accordance with one's political views if one stands for anything other than state's accession to Pakistan as there will be no candidate of his choice to vote for. In short, the forthcoming elections for the AJK Assembly are a gross violation of Kashmiris' basic human rights. As such the JKLF opposes them, since it stands for re-unification and complete independence of the whole state.

All political parties of Azad Kashmir opposed the recent parliamentary elections in Indian-held Kashmir with the right plea that those elections were not a substitute to the proposed and pledged plebiscite to determine the future of the state. But same is the case with elections to the Azad Kashmir Assembly as well. These elections are not a substitute to the plebiscite too. As such, doesn't it amount to adopting double standards if we

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oppose elections in Indian-held Kashmir and support and participate in elections in Azad Kashmir! Yes it does, and we the JKLF people, hate to adopt double standards although this habit has been costing us a lot.

JKLF is proposing that in place of a very expensive legislative assembly and a cabinet in Azad Kashmir elected at the cost of billions of rupees and causing justified displeasure to our compatriots across the cease-fire line, let a Revolutionary Council be formed comprising heads of all present parliamentary parties and of those organizations engaged in all the three, i.e. political, diplomatic and militant fronts of freedom struggle, and some other recognized notables from AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. This Revolutionary Council be vested with the authority to run the freedom struggle as well as affairs concerning administration and development of Azad Kashmir and all the funds be kept at the disposal of this Revolutionary Council. The proposed Revolutionary Council will constitute separate committees comprising dedicated and competent people with necessary professional experience to supervise, rather conduct freedom struggle in all the three, i.e. political, diplomatic and militant wings. This will not only create better discipline, direction and unity of thought and action, but will also provide the movement with professionally more efficient and dedicated leadership in all the three fronts, working under a well planned policy and program. This will also create a unified command which will put an end to infighting that has been the order of the day for the last over two years, giving birth to a number of renegade groups which have harmed the movement irreparably. What is all the more important, the Revolutionary Council working under a mutually agreed formula about the constitutional future of the State (unfettered right of self-determination) will put an end to the prevailing ideological tug of war.

Of late, corruption, favoritism and nepotism have been eating into the very vitals of the socioeconomic and political structure of Azad Kashmir. The Revolutionary Council can cure this disease too by controlling corrupt bureaucracy and politicians and making merit and necessity the basis of every step.

Looking at the matter from any angle, every patriotic and farsighted Kashmiri comes to the conclusion that in the best national interests, the forthcoming elections in Azad Kashmir be canceled and the Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly and the Cabinet be replaced by a Revolutionary Council which should control and conduct not only the freedom movement in its entirety, but also the affairs concerning administration and development of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan as well.

Last but not the least, let me make it crystal clear that JKLF is not, not at all, against democratic values, practices or processes but our freedom and national emancipation is far more dear to us than elections to impotent and externally-controlled assemblies. Nonetheless, if elections are taken to be inevitable, let there be free, fair and impartial elections conducted by international community and held simultaneously in all the parts of the State with no curb on the free will (political ideology) of the contestants or voters.

Pakistan: French Navy's Gift of 2 Aircraft Reach Naval Air Base

BK2006052996 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two of the three Atlantic-I long-range maritime patrol aircraft gifted by the French Navy to Pakistan reached the naval air base, PNS [Pakistan Naval Ship] Mehran, yesterday. [sentence as heard] The transfer of the Atlantic aircraft marks a step forward in the log-standing friendly relationship of the two navies.

Pakistan: Interior Minister Warns Opposition About 23 Jun Strike

BK2006054896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar, has said if the opposition creates law and order situation during the strike called by them on Sunday, the government will come into action to maintain peace. He told newsmen in Islamabad yesterday that the opposition's decision of reverting to politics of strike was their democratic right, but such strikes damage the country's economy. About the normalization of situation in Karachi, he said the government was following up the return of peace with efforts to seek political solution of the problem through talks. He said that the government would provide security to all political parties, including the Altaf Group, when they resume their political activities in Karachi.

The federal law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, has also criticized the strike call given by opposition saying this obsolete method of protest leads to nothing but damage to the economy of the country. He said the countries which experienced strikes and civil disobedience movements have incurred severe setbacks to their economy.

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